

HOME NEWS

Water strike nearer as NUPE backs wage claim

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The threat of a water strike grew yesterday when the second largest union in the industry endorsed a call for industrial action in pursuit of a pay claim of 46 per cent.

Leaders of the National Union of Public Employees voted to back a recommendation from their water workers' national committee that sanctions should be employed over a demand for comparability with wages in the gas and electricity supply industries.

Mr Ronald Keating, assistant general secretary of NUPE, said industrial action was inevitable if the employers did not honour a comparability study recently carried out comparing rates of pay in the three utilities. Water workers say they are £10 a week worse off than gas and power workers.

NUPE water employees have joined those in the General and Municipal Workers' Union in threatening strike action if their demands are not met.

The water workers have recently won over 13 per cent, but local government manual workers will today sign an agreement for almost exactly the same rises.

The executive committee of NUPE decided to accept the offer after an overwhelming majority of their 450,000 town hall manual staff voted in favour in a ballot. The agreement covers 1,100,000 men and women.

Man arrested in scuffles at factory

From Our Correspondent
Slough

Demonstrators clashed with police and a man was arrested as 150 pickets tried to block non-union workers entering a factory at Slough, Berkshire, yesterday.

The demonstration, called by the General and Municipal Workers' Union, began peacefully outside the Chiswick and Slough factory in Farnham Road.

Some pickets laughed and joked with the 40 police called to cover the demonstration. But when a mini bus tried to take non-union workers into the factory through a rear gate, scuffles broke out. Pickets yelling "scabs" and "traitors" tried to hold the gates closed and block the van.

No one was hurt as the mini bus got through. The demonstration was the latest step in a dispute which has lasted 13 weeks.

It was called in support of 96 Asian women workers, members of the GMWU, who have been on strike since October 10 demanding recognition of their union.

"The dispute is fast becoming another Grunwick," said one union official. "All we want is for the company to recognize our union, but they refuse to talk to us."

The company refused to comment.

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Call for innovation in higher education

By a Staff Reporter

The Government should introduce a measure of manpower planning to protect the higher education system to protect it against stagnation, Mr Alan Thompson, Deputy Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, told a Commons select committee yesterday. There had been no departure from the principle in the 1963 Robbins report that higher education should be available for all who were able, qualified and wished for it.

But that did not mean students could follow whatever course they liked at whatever institution they wanted.

The higher education system had been expanding for many years and all its management and control mechanisms were based on that assumption, Mr Thompson said.

That was about to change for the first time in 30 years to a system that might be more or less static and contained.

It was not simply a question of less money. The 18-plus age group would drop fairly rapidly after 1982, and stability in higher education in the 80s had always been likely.

The Government's expenditure policy, which might mean no increase in funds for higher education over the next two or three years, had made it a reality sooner.

"If this is the case, the question is how to ensure that stability does not become stagnation; that there is always room for innovation."

Mr Thompson was speaking to a meeting of the new Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts which, under the chairmanship of Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, is examining the way higher education courses are organized and financed.

He suggested the answer was an element of manpower planning, which the universities and polytechnics would probably welcome in the form of a coherent policy on numbers, subjects taken and types of courses.

One way might be to translate the specific needs of employers into broad subject areas to act as a guiding principle.

A second would be to rationalize courses. That was important to enable innovation to take place.

On the recent decision to charge the full cost of courses to overseas students, Mr Thompson said the effect would not be as catastrophic as had been made out.

The effect would be gradual, as the charge applied only to new entrants, and therefore could be monitored.

If the shorter length of British courses were taken into account, as well as the relative costs of living in different countries, the charges were not uncompetitive, he said.

Poorest 'hit by cuts in spending'

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Millions of families face a fall in living standards because the Government has abandoned social priorities, a Child Poverty Action Group pamphlet says today. The proportion of national resources being devoted to the poorest has been cut, and may be reduced further in the next round of spending.

The pamphlet points out that Britain spends less of its gross national product on social programmes than most other European countries and argues that "there is no economic perspective that requires the Government to economize in the cuts". On the contrary, orthodox economic analyses, supported by empirical evidence, suggest a need for an increase in public spending.

Present public spending cuts are inefficient because they are being made across the board, the pamphlet says. They do not make economic sense, place the main burden on the poor, and affect families most. It contrasts the £1 to £2 a week gained through tax cuts for families living just above the official poverty line on wages of £60 to £80 a week, with the extra costs they face through school meals and transport charges, higher value added tax, and prescription charges.

"The social wage is crucial for the living standards of millions of families; as wages or salaries, and for many of the poorest it is vital", the pamphlet says.

Social spending should be seen as essential maintenance of the human factor in production, as investment in sickness prevention and cure, and as investment in families and in the future generation.

Abandoning Social Priorities by Alan Walker, Paul Ormerod and Larry Whitty (CPAG, 1 Macklin Street, London WC2) £1.05.

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Many GPs unaware of patient groups

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

Like any new idea in medicine, patient participation groups in family doctor's practices are having a hard time establishing themselves, a conference on the subject organized by the Royal College of General Practitioners was told yesterday.

A survey conducted seven years ago found the first groups were established but that 10 out of 15 general practitioners who were training younger doctors were unaware of the existence of such groups. The other five doctors had a vague idea of their purpose.

There was fear of the idea, with comment that only atypical patients, like "That's Life" freaks, mooners, hypochondriacs, communitarian types and bored housewives would be likely to join.

There are about 25 patient participation groups, established by family doctors with the aim of giving patients more say in the way that primary health services are provided, and helping to encourage self-care and prevention of disease, and of improving the contact between the doctor and families.

The survey by Mrs Jo Wood, research fellow in the department of general practice, Manchester University, concludes that patient participation is an emotive issue that holds great promise and great risks in the hands of family doctors. The concept should neither be rejected out of hand nor precipitously welcomed.

The initial response of doctors was likely to be negative, seeing a loss of control as between the establishment of groups and "interference" and an increase in patients' complaints. However, all but two of the doctors interviewed saw the possibility of potential benefits. If the concept were to be rejected out of hand nor precipitously welcomed.

The survey found that medical critics of such groups were wrong in thinking that the initial lack of control was a danger. All groups had been begun by family doctors through a growing awareness of deficiencies in community services; and a desire to dissipate the "Fort Knox" image in some practices, regarded by "dragon receptionists".

Risks of glue sniffing

By Stewart Tindler

One of the attractions of glue sniffing for children may be that it combines childhood games and codes of behaviour with the use of substances akin in effect to the alcohol drunk by adults, a conference was told in London yesterday.

Miss Annas Dixon, a member of the Government's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and a social worker at a London drug addiction clinic, said that for many children in their early teens, the practice was a cheap alternative to drink. Most cases it was no more than a passing fancy.

Speaking at the first national conference on glue sniffing organized by Release (a charity which specializes in drug problems) Miss Dixon said the term was a misnomer. The attraction was in the vapours given off and the substances involved included not only some types of glue but also chemicals found in some household products.

Glue sniffing brought risks like many other fads and phases children went through but Miss Dixon said it would be interesting to compare the injuries from glue sniffing against crazes like skateboarding.

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ORC SURVEY

Poll finds a deep unease with working of present political system and a desire for something better

Voters in right mood for formation of a centre party

The mood of the British voting public appears to be right for the formation of a centre party. There is considerable apprehension about the Conservative Party going to the left and the Labour Party drifting to the right. But if Mr Jenkins decides to throw his hat into the ring his success will undoubtedly depend on the type of centre party he envisages.

For, though a clear majority of people favour the formation of a new party in the centre, there is no consensus on its component parts. There is also a strong desire, if possible, to avoid a split in the Labour Party and it is undoubtedly a political factor which the proponents of a centre party would have to evaluate and get right.

These are some of the key findings in a special poll on attitudes to the concept of a centre party commissioned by *The Times* and carried out between January 4 and 6 by Opinion Research and Communication, with a representative national growth sample of 1,039 electors in 100 constituencies in England, Scotland and Wales.

The survey shows that there is deep unease with the working of the present political system, and a desire for something better—including a fairer system of relating votes to political power.

Uneasiness goes well beyond the political parties and can be said to encompass most of what might loosely be termed the "political establishment"—including the unions and business.

This can be seen in the first table:—

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
The present political system no longer works properly	53	34	13
The Labour Party is moving too much to the left for my liking	60	22	18
The Conservative Party is moving too much to the right for my liking	46	34	20
The trade unions have too much power over the Labour Party	75	17	8
Business and industry has too much power over the Conservative Party	40	38	22
People who don't want to support the Labour Party or Conservative Party have no opportunities of making their views felt	55	35	10

The dissatisfaction with the way the political system is working is significantly greater among the Labour Party and the Liberals—possibly because Conservatives are suspending judgment to see how the new Conservative experiment in government works out:—

	C	Lab	L	Rest
Present political system no longer works properly	41	58	65	60
Disagree	48	29	27	18
Don't know	11	13	8	22

It is not unexpected that most Conservatives think that the Labour Party is moving too far to the left, but it is significant that four out of ten Labour voters share the same view:—

	C	Lab	L	Rest
Labour Party is moving too far to the left	82	33	71	47
Disagree	6	41	15	22
Don't know	12	20	14	31

A majority of Labour supporters think that the Conservative Party is moving too far to the right, but the extent of this disquiet is by no means as high. It is also interesting that only 21 per cent of Conservatives view this idea with alarm:—

	C	Lab	L	Rest
Conservative Party moving too far to the right	21	66	61	41
Disagree	86	12	22	23
Don't know	13	22	17	37

Predictably nine out of ten Conservatives and as many (86 per cent) of Liberals think the trade unions have too much power over the Labour Party. What is striking is that 56 per cent of Labour voters take the same view. Concern about the business world's grip on the Conservative Party is not so great: a bare majority of Labour voters (54 per cent) take this view, but in the case of supporters of the other parties it is only a substantial minority view. A clear majority of voters—55 per cent—would like to see a new party formed in the centre of British politics. But there is no consensus at all on its constituent parts:—

Q: Some people would like to see a new party formed somewhere in the political centre. Would you like to look at this card and say which is your own view?

	All	C	Lab	L	Rest
I would like to see a centre party formed by the right wing and moderates of the Labour Party splitting away from the left wing section	9	7	14	4	5
I would like to see a centre party formed by the moderates and the right wing Labour M.P.s joining up with the Liberals	14	4	22	23	7
I would like to see a centre party made up of the Liberal Party, and the moderates and right wing of the Labour Party and left wing of the Conservative Party	9	15	2	13	6
I would like to see a centre party made up of the Liberal Party, and the moderates and right wing of the Labour Party	22	22	14	41	20
I am not in favour of a centre party being formed at all	32	40	33	14	27
Don't know/none of these	14	12	15	5	35

The first thing to be said about these figures is that only one third of voters feel satisfied enough with the present political alignment to reject the centre party concept positively.

The second is, despite the fact that it is their Government in power, Conservative voters are not much happier than Labour supporters. Thereafter, as might be expected, party opinions differ. Labour voters, not surprisingly, do not favour a left-wing/Conservative/Liberal centre party. Equally, Conservative voters are unenthusiastic about a Labour-moderates/Liberal coalition.

But in both parties something like one in two would favour one or other alliance to alter the present political landscape.

There are few significant regional variations. But in general it can be said that people in the South are less in favour of a link-up between the Labour Party moderates and the Liberals:—

	North	Midlands	South	Scotland/Wales
Labour Party moderates and Liberals	18	19	9	15



David Steel: main contender for leadership of a new centre party.

The only other break worth mentioning is that people in the North, perhaps, are a little less for the political status quo:—

	North	Midlands	South	Scotland/Wales
Not in favour of a centre party being formed at all	26	34	34	35

At the time the poll was taken the voting intention was as follows: Conservative, 39 per cent; Labour, 42 per cent; Liberal, 16 per cent; Nationalist, 2 per cent; Other party, 1 per cent; no voting intention, 11 per cent.

Two further questions were then asked to investigate the likely effect on voting patterns if Mr Jenkins (or indeed anyone else) decided the time had come to launch a centre party.

What came through was that a centre party which consists of a breakaway group of moderate and right-wing Labour Party would succeed only in splitting the Labour vote without having any real chance of winning power. The effect would probably be to give Britain two Liberal-sized parties in the centre instead of one. For such a centre party would take very little support away from the Liberals (3 per cent) and would not attract more than 16 per cent of votes in total.

A much more viable runner would be a centre party formed by fusing the moderates and right wing of the Labour Party with the existing Liberal Party. This would give a voting support of about one quarter of the voting population. But again (because there seems to be no consensus on what sort of creature a centre party ought to be) it would not seem likely to achieve majority power. We would then end up with three parties of very roughly equivalent voting pull.

Q: If a centre party was formed by the moderates and right-wing members of the Labour Party splitting away from the left wing and they put up a candidate in your constituency, which of the following candidates would you be inclined to vote for?

	All	C	Lab	L	Rest
Conservative candidate	26	71	1	1	2
Labour candidate	29	2	72	3	12
Liberal candidate	13	5	4	65	6
Centre party candidate	16	13	17	27	12
Nationalist or other party candidate	2	1	1	—	11
Would not vote	4	2	1	—	21
Refused	1	—	—	—	5
Don't know	9	6	4	3	31

Q: If a centre party was formed by the moderate and right-wing members of the Labour Party joining up with the Liberals and they put up a candidate in your constituency, which of the following candidates would you be inclined to vote for?

	All	C	Lab	L	Rest
Conservative candidate	29	76	1	11	4
Labour candidate	31	3	73	10	11
Centre party candidate	23	13	17	63	19
Nationalist or other party candidate	3	1	1	2	12
Would not vote	5	2	2	4	23
Refused	1	—	—	—	6
Don't know	8	5	6	10	26

The most worrying thing for those who believe a centre party could be the salvation of the political system in Britain is that the defections from the Labour Party and Conservative Party remain astonishingly small which, ever of the two likely alternatives are postulated.

By a strange coincidence the figures are the same—respectively 13 per cent of Tories and 17 per cent of Labour voters—for both a centre party made up of the Labour moderates and right wing or a centre party incorporating Labour moderates and right wing and the existing Liberal Party. All that seemingly happens is that with the disappearance of the Liberal Party Liberal voters scatter. The great majority, clearly, go to the new centre party. But a few, perhaps renegade Tories, go home. Similarly the Labour Party and the Nationalists pick up a few. But the coalition of the Social Democrats and Liberals, in this event, does not attract any extra votes when all the movements have taken place.

Two further questions suggest that another Liberal revival might not be too fanciful:—

Q: If you thought at the next general election the Liberal Party had a reasonable chance of winning the election, would you vote for them or not?

	All	C	Lab	L	Rest
Would	42	27	38	99	37
Would not	50	67	57	1	42
Don't know	8	6	7	—	21

It is not surprising that more Labour voters are pro-Liberal. What is interesting is that one in four Conservatives answer positively.

The second question is very hypothetical and, perhaps, should not be taken too seriously. There are three caveats: the first is that a centre party does not exist. Second, there is no genuine list of runners for its leadership. And, third, Mr Roy Jenkins's support is probably unfairly represented since he has been out of politics and the mainstream of news for some time—and visibility is most important in polling response. Even so, two items are

worthy of note. The first is that David Steel emerges clear favourite of our hypothetical list to lead a centre party, and second is that Mr Edward Heath, who has no party behind him, no close adherents, and gets very little political exposure, still comes a quite close second.

Q: If a centre party was formed and it won the next general election, which of the following politicians would you like to see leading it as Prime Minister?

	All	C	Lab	L	Rest
David Steel	24	16	19	63	19
Edward Heath	19	41	5	5	12
Shirley Williams	16	5	29	10	11
Roy Jenkins	11	12	13	9	7
William Rodgers	1	1	3	—	—
None of these	18	19	17	9	26
Don't know	11	6	14	4	25

That underlying strength of the Liberals is underlined by a further warning sign: the desire of voters generally not to see the Labour Party fragment itself.

Q: Some people think, because of the present quarrels between the moderates and the left wing, that the Labour Party will split in two. Irrespective of which party you support, do you think that would be a good thing or a bad thing for the country?

	All	C	Lab	L	Rest
Good thing	26	36	14	32	27
Bad thing	59	51	79	52	44
Don't know	15	13	13	16	29

Perhaps the most surprising feature of the tables is that a bare majority of Conservative voters (51 per cent) believe it would be a bad thing for the country to see the present factional troubles of the Labour Party lead to a permanent split. Despite this, the unease about the working of the present political system remained as the final question showed. The lobby for parliamentary reform and for the introduction of some sort of proportional representation system clearly has a lot of support—particularly in relating the number of votes cast to the number of seats a party wins:—

Q: Do you think it would be a good idea or a bad idea if a new system of voting was brought in?

	Good idea	Bad idea	Don't know
(a) So that the number of seats a party wins in an election is in proportion to the number of votes it gets in an election	72	13	15
(b) Which would make it more difficult for the largest party in Parliament to do what it wants without taking any notice of what the other parties want	45	35	20
(c) Which would only make it possible for one party to form a government after an election if it had won half or more of the votes	52	26	22

Analysed by party the Liberals, not unexpectedly, are more in favour of electoral reform, but the differences are not great. In general the unease cuts across parties and there would be a general welcome among voters for some sign that political power equated more fairly with votes cast.

* All figures in the tables are percentages.

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HOME NEWS

Cell deaths inquiry is not justified, policemen's leader says

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, yesterday attacked a "most unwarranted and unsubstantiated smear on the reputation of the police service" over the deaths in police custody.

Speaking at a federation meeting in Coventry, he rejected demands for a government-appointed public inquiry.

He said: "There is nothing in the figures which even begins to justify the campaign which is now being waged in the press and which is about to be launched in Parliament."

He said that certain MPs and newspapers had seized on the deaths of Liddle Towers, James Kelly and Blair Peach (who was not in custody) to suggest there was something sinister about the number of deaths in police custody over the past 10 years.

"No matter how there has been no public complaint about any of them; no matter that the cause of death has been determined in more than 90 per cent of the cases by public inquiries; it is enough to suggest that these deaths happened in police custody there is a possibility that they were caused by the police," Mr Jardine said.

"I say it is a vicious attack on the integrity of thousands of police officers who have had responsibility for making arrests and for the custody of prisoners."

Every force had specific standing orders setting out the responsibilities of duty officers and officers in charge of police stations.

The question of what went on in police cells was under careful supervision.

"Let us bear in mind also that police cells, every day of the week, are seen by defence solicitors, by probation officers and relatives of prisoners."

The federation's objection to a public inquiry was that

it would be a forum for making outrageous allegations, completely unsupported by evidence, and for police officers as a body and individuals to be pilloried.

"We are not going to support the idea of individual members of the police service being put up to be bombarded with mud in the hope that some of it might stick. We do not need to be told by anyone that even one death caused by police violence is one too many."

Because the Director of Public Prosecutions had declined to prosecute so far it could not be concluded that he was not a fit and proper person to decide whether a police officer should be prosecuted.

Mr Jardine said it could be estimated that over a 10-year period about four million people had been in police custody, of whom 245 had died, a mortality rate of 6.25 per 100,000.

In all but 20 cases coroners' inquests had determined the cause of death. Where no inquest had been held there had been a decision by the coroner on the basis of substantial medical evidence.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, West, who was criticized by Mr Jardine, referred last night in reply to the deaths of Mr Kelly, Mr Towers and Mr Peach: "If we knew more about the other cases would we be talking of just three, or six or twelve or twenty or what? The truth is, no one knows."

Mr Meacher said he was not running a scare campaign, but "we know about James Kelly and Liddle Towers. For all we know they may be something similar that has happened."

That was why he wanted more facts. According to the police version and the way deaths were categorized, he said, Mr Kelly's death would have gone down as "heart-attack: natural causes".

Letters, page 15



Lydia Kirk, aged 24, Winchester Cathedral's first woman stonemason.

Conveyance classes to cut house sale cost

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Britain's first school of do-it-yourself house conveyancing was launched yesterday at the House of Commons.

The British School of Conveyancing will offer evening tutorials in a hired hall at Sidcup and correspondence courses, and claims that it will enable its students to save between £500 and £800 on the legal costs of buying and selling their homes.

Mr Kenneth Weetch, Labour MP for Ipswich and a fierce opponent of the solicitors' monopoly in conveyancing, said that the costs of moving house in 1980 were "horrific". It would cost more than £2,000 to exchange homes priced at £30,000 even if the move was only across the street. Conveyancing charges alone would be over £700.

Mr Weetch said the recent report of the Royal Commission on Legal Services, recommending a tightening of the closed shop, was a "stunning body blow to those who want to see a system of low cost conveyancing".

But he thought it would be difficult politically for the Government to bring in legislation restricting consumers' choice and strengthening a restrictive practice which already makes the plumber and his mate look like a high point of competition.

He said: "A vast number of people want to do their own conveyancing, and the school will give them the opportunity to do it under guidance, knowing they have someone to go to if they do get into difficulties."

In the opening film, Mr Silk is seen giving a pep talk to a group of new boys in the college chapel: "We regard this side (indicating the chapel) of what we do here as the most important side of all. You will spend a small part of each day in here. But the real religious life begins when you walk out of that door."

"Some of you may be blessed with good brains, others not. That doesn't matter two pence: it's how hard you try. You come to school for one thing—to acquire the right habits for life."

Price regulations 'may prove unenforceable'

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Trading standards officers are concerned that government regulations to control dual pricing and bargain offers may prove unenforceable.

There have been complaints that unscrupulous traders are evading the provisions of the Price Marking (Bargain Offers) Order, 1979, which bans misleading price claims.

Mr Stephen Hardy, director of a furnishing company in Nottingham, said he had evidence of rival retailers evading the legislation in four ways.

Some are continuing to quote price comparisons with manufacturers' recommended prices, he said. That was banned for beds last July and for domestic electrical appliances, consumer electronic goods, carpets and furniture on December 10.

Others have merely changed the name of "manufacturers' recommended price" to "normal price" and others again are quoting comparisons with totally spurious "after-the-sale prices" which they will never charge.

"In some cases 'usual price' is actually defined in small print in the advertisements as a price that has been charged in just one day's trading at the company's branch in London. These prices could be completely artificial," Mr Hardy said.

Mr Geoffrey Hannibal, chief

trading standards officer for Nottinghamshire County Council, said: "At present we have not considered bringing prosecutions. We are more inclined to advise the trade. The order is very complex and even when we have studied it we cannot be certain that our interpretation is correct."

Miss Rosemary McRobert, director of the Retail Trading Standards Association, which represents principal department store groups, said: "Apart from straightforwardly banning comparisons with manufacturers' recommended prices in some sectors and outlawing vague and potentially misleading claims such as 'weech... save up to... the rest of the order is unbelievably stupid."

"It has made the situation worse as regards sale prices, where a higher price is crossed out and a lower one substituted, because to show that an offence had been committed under the order the trading standards officer would have to prove that the trader had never once, even agreed a sale at the higher price. It is obviously impossible."

Mr Christopher Rogers, spokesman for the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, the professional association, said: "The feeling in the institute is that we have been lumbered with enforcing something nobody understands."

Midwife shortage 'growing'

By a Staff Reporter

Maternity units in many areas of the country are inadequately staffed because of the lack of trained midwives and the situation is getting worse, the parliamentary social services committee was told yesterday.

The committee, which was considering perinatal and neonatal mortality rates, was told by the Royal College of Midwives that the shortage had been exacerbated by recently introduced longer holidays and the shorter working week.

The midwives were demand-

ing a 37½ hour week which would worsen the shortage.

Miss Ruth Wilday, a member of the college's council, said that the service had been run on the goodwill of the midwives long enough. Many worked much longer than the 40 hours they were supposed to, and because of the financial difficulties of the service, did not claim overtime or time off in lieu.

Miss Joyce Beak of the college said that midwives could help to bring down the perinatal mortality rate if they were allowed to contribute more to antenatal care.

Couple lose action on children's education

From Our Correspondent Great Witley

Geoffrey Harrison, aged 41, and his wife Iris, aged 37, were convicted by magistrates at Great Witley, Hereford and Worcester, yesterday for failing to comply with school attendance orders in respect of three of their children. They were granted an absolute discharge.

Mrs Harrison, who has been leading a campaign for the right to educate children without interference from the local authority, said last night that she would appeal. She would not be sending her children to a state school.

The Harrisons live on a remote smallholding near Tenbury Wells and said during the hearing that they were educating their children by a progressive method known as the "autonomous system", in which the children are encouraged to learn by themselves rather than being formally taught.

Hereford and Worcester County Council had placed attendance orders on Andrea, aged 15, Grant, aged 14, and Newall, aged 10.

Mr Colman Treacy, for the County Council, said it was the view of the authority that the Harrison children were lacking in their knowledge of formal school subjects and were having no education at all in the recognized sense.

Mr Ivan Gefen, for the defence, said the Harrisons' methods of teaching were designed to make the children self-reliant, confident, capable and mature individuals.

"The authority takes the view that there is only one kind of education. If this view is accepted it will be a sad day. There are relatively few parents who would be prepared to take such a deeply principled stand. That is why there has been no legal precedent in a case of this kind since the Education Act was introduced in 1944."

Public school comes under scrutiny in TV series

Here the corridors of power begin

By Diana Geddes

The most intimate, detailed and objective account to date of one of Britain's most controversial institutions, the public school, starts today in a series of 10 30-minute television documentaries on BBC 2.

Life at Radley College near Oxford, one of Britain's top 10 public schools, of which both Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, and Peter Cook, the comedian, are old boys, was filmed in the Easter and summer terms last year.

The opening film tells viewers the importance of schools like Radley is disproportionate to their numbers. Only 5 per cent of boys go to public school, but that 5 per cent dominates nearly every major institution in the land, not least the Cabinet, composed entirely of ex-public school boys, with one exception the Prime Minister himself.

It is this predominance which arouses passions. Public schools are loved, hated, honoured and reviled.

The present Government is pledged

to spend public money on sending talented boys from poor families to schools like Radley. At the moment fees are nearly £3,000 a year which ensures that few of today's pupils are of lowly social origin.

Mr Denis Silk, the headmaster, who courageously agreed to the filming of every detail of the school's life, including the more sensitive issues of homosexuality and alcohol abuse, said that he had seen six of the "10" programmes and believed that they were "a very fair representation of the humdrum life of a school".

"I think Richard Denton, the producer, has tried to find the heartbeat of Radley. That's damn difficult to do when you are trailing round a television crew with you, but he's achieved the next best thing. Don't expect any fireworks; a documentary isn't supposed to titillate, but rather simply to show what's going on."

Turning to the assisted places scheme, Mr Silk said that he planned to tell the Government that he was prepared to help in any way he

could, even if necessary by taking in day-boys. Radley has only boarders at present. The Government's proposed scheme would help only with tuition fees at independent schools.

Mr Silk, who is the son of a poor medical missionary and a former scholar at Christ's Hospital, said: "I've known poverty, but I've been damn lucky. And I would like the kind of education we offer at Radley to be available to every child in the country, regardless of their parents' income."

In the opening film, Mr Silk is seen giving a pep talk to a group of new boys in the college chapel: "We regard this side (indicating the chapel) of what we do here as the most important side of all. You will spend a small part of each day in here. But the real religious life begins when you walk out of that door."

"Some of you may be blessed with good brains, others not. That doesn't matter two pence: it's how hard you try. You come to school for one thing—to acquire the right habits for life."

Boy was crushed to death by giant snowball

From Our Correspondent Telford

A schoolboy aged seven was asphyxiated, trapped under a huge snowball, according to a pathologist's report at a Sadoy inquest yesterday. The inquest was adjourned.

Anthony Bowers, of Leighton, Lawley Bank, Telford, died despite neighbours' efforts to save him.

His brother, Stephen, aged 10, and their friend, Ian Brice, also 10, built the snowball. Police said it was about 5ft in diameter, and the boys began to roll it down an incline on Lawley Common.

Anthony appeared to have slipped beneath the snowball, which weighed about three hundredweight. The other boys woke up the snowball but found Anthony unconscious.

Football ground murder charge

Barry Rondeau, aged 19, of Fleming Mead, Michal, London, was remanded in custody until tomorrow week by the Cardiff stipendiary magistrate yesterday charged with the murder of a Swansea man.

He was charged with the murder near Cardiff City football ground of Mr David Williams, aged 31, a labourer, of Maytree Avenue, West Cross, Swansea. Seven men from the London area will appear before the stipendiary magistrate today charged with causing an affray near the ground on Monday.

Football chiefs rail bid fails

Stuart Dryden, aged 53, chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club, who was jailed for six months for obstructing justice by deception yesterday for failing to appear for trial pending appeal against sentence. The application was made to Justice Peter Pain in chambers at Lincoln. He has decided to refer the matter to the Court of Appeal.

West Indian girls do well in school, study shows

By Frances Gibb

West Indian schoolchildren, particularly girls, pull ahead as they go through school and do better in later years than their English classmates, an article published today says.

Dr Geoffrey Driver, a research fellow at Leeds University, argues that his study refutes the "accepted wisdom" that West Indian children do not do as well at school as they could.

He comes up with a new pecking order of achievement among schoolchildren, with West Indian girls first, then English boys, followed by West Indian boys and lastly English girls.

The article, in *New Society*, comes just after the publication of a survey showing that second generation immigrant children do as well as, if not better than, than indigenous children from similar home backgrounds.

More comfort offered on inter-city coaches

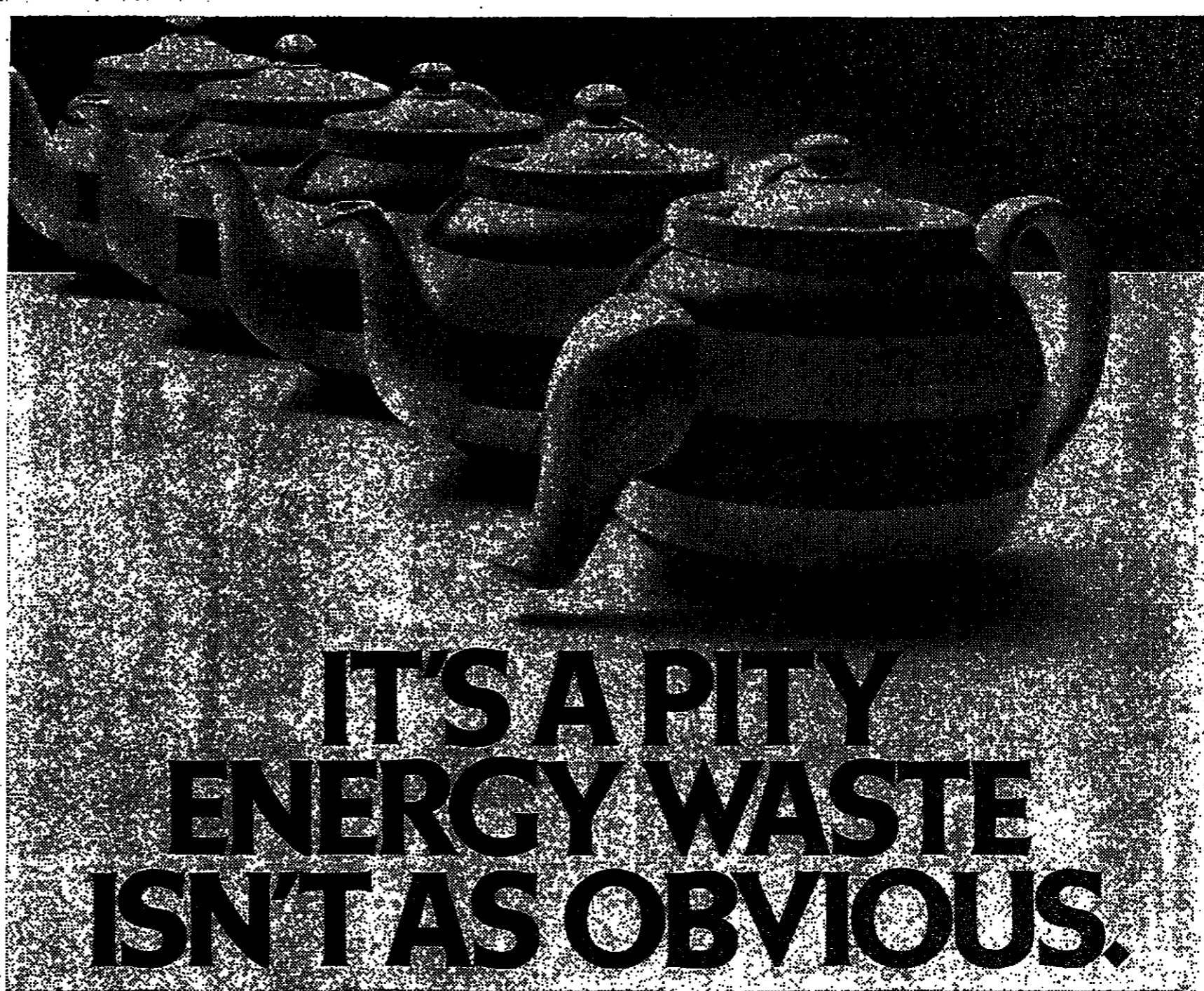
By Michael Bailly
Transport Correspondent

National Express inter-city coaches, which lost over a million passengers since British Rail launched its highly successful cut-price railcards for students, pensioners and families, is to fight back with more comfortable coaches, a more sophisticated network of interchanges, and a six-figure advertising campaign, the parent state-owned National Bus Company disclosed yesterday.

There will be no price war; coach fares are going up by 15 to 20 per cent this year and the days of road travel costing only half the rail fare are long past, the bus company admitted, although coach travel is still cheaper on many routes and substantially so on some.

The present ten million passengers a year on 2,000 inter-city coaches could be increased if only more people would try it, market research has shown. A Disney-style frog will be wringing them from the television screens to "Hop off with National Express".

An unexpected finding of consumer research is that the elderly make up only 16 per cent of coach traffic. The young account for over half. Vigorous competition from private coach operators is expected as a result of the Transport Bill. But National Express, with the advantage of a coach network of 600 routes linking about every town in the country, regards that as "a sputter rather than a threat". Mr John Birks, controller, said in London yesterday.



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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY 175

MAKE THE MOST OF ENERGY

HOME NEWS

Saving of £11.6m is expected in loss of 246 'quangos' after review of 2,117 organizations

By Peter Hennessy

The results of the Prime Minister's long awaited attack on secondary bureaucracy, the non-departmental public bodies (popularly known as "quangos") whose growth has mushroomed in the past decade, were announced in a White Paper yesterday. Of the 2,117 organizations examined, 246 will disappear, 3,700 ministerial appointments and 250 permanent posts will be terminated, achieving a total saving of £11.6m.

No bodies will be established without the closest scrutiny and the policy of "hiving off" government functions to agencies like the Manpower Services Commission, recommended by the Fulton report of 1968, has been abandoned.

The 1,871 organizations that have survived will be subject to sharper examination from the Comptroller and Auditor General, Parliament's spending watchdog, and the new select committee of the House of Commons.

The review of non-departmental public bodies was conducted, on behalf of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, by Sir Leo Pliatzky, former Permanent Secretary at the Department of Trade. It took three months and cost £35,000. It offers ministers scope for a further reduction in coming months of about 3,500 ministerial appointments and an extra 250 permanent jobs.

The next stage is likely to bite most deeply into the committee structure of the Manpower Services Commission. Thought was given to returning the functions of the commission to the Department of Employment, but Mr. James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, ruled out such a move as it would have increased the TUC who set great store by the commission in its present form. Mrs Thatcher accepted that view.



Sir Leo Pliatzky: Questions for future reviews.

The largest financial saving of £7.35m will come from bodies controlled by the Department of Trade, like the Price Commission and the Metrication Board. Their disbandment has already been announced. The biggest change disclosed for the first time in yesterday's White Paper is the merger of the White Fish Authority with the Herring Industry Board.

Other big savings will come from areas within the purview of the Department of the Environment (£1.55m), the Department of Health and Social Security (£500,000) and the Department of Employment (£454,000). Cuts in the combined budgets of the 2,117 bodies examined, totalling £350m, have already been announced as part of the Government's public expenditure review which was carried out separately from Sir Leo's exercise.

Sir Leo's analysis distinguished three types of public organization: executive bodies, like the Location of Offices

Bureau; advisory bodies, like the Army Education Advisory Board, and tribunals, such as the Irish Pensions Appeal Tribunal (all examples of bodies that are to go). In the executive category, 30 bodies will disappear or be merged with others, 211 advisory boards will be wound up and five tribunals discontinued.

It is recognized in Whitehall that the savings achieved by the Pliatzky review are tiny when set alongside a total annual public expenditure of £70,000m. Emphasis is placed, however, on the changed climate which will, it is claimed, prevent a further proliferation of creeping bureaucracy and on the greater financial stringency and scrutiny that Sir Leo believes necessary for organizations that are generally immune from market forces.

Sir Leo notes that excessive scrutiny might act as "a fresh deterrent to public service" and his report is explicit about the persistent difficulty ministers and permanent secretaries experience in finding people of sufficient calibre to fill vacancies on public bodies.

Sir Leo who retires from the Civil Service at the end of the month, has left a list of questions for the Civil Service Department, which will carry on his work, to put before ministers in future reviews of public bodies. They are:

- 1 Is the function which is being carried out essential? Or, if not, is it valuable enough to justify the time and money spent on it?
 - 2 If the answer is that the function is either essential or sufficiently valuable, is it best carried out by the non-departmental body in question rather than by another means?
 - 3 Is it being carried out well and economically?
 - 4 Conversely, would there be any substantial loss or disadvantage if the body were wound up?
- Report on Non-Departmental Public Bodies (Stationery Office, Command 7797), £5.75.

Investigation urged on poisoning of birds

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

An investigation into how organic lead was dispersed along the north shore of one Mersey estuary, killing more than 2,000 curlew, redshank, dunlin waders, gulls and ducks, is being requested by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The need to discover if the hazard has passed will be put to a meeting on Monday in Liverpool of scientists from Government laboratories, the North-West Water Authority, the Associated Oriel Company and members of the society's research department.

Mr Ian Prest, director of the society, said it was the first time an industrial pollutant had caused such damage to an important estuarine feeding ground. The shore opposite to the one on which most of the birds were washed up contains the Ioc Bank, a site of international importance for wildfowl, particularly colonies of up to 30,000 teal and pintail.

Concern about dispersion of such a toxic substance was thus understandable and the risks to other areas should be determined.

An unfortunate side issue was the water authority's original reluctance to accept the possibility that the poisoning came from the river into the food chain of wildlife when the mortality was at its peak in November, Mr Prest said.

However the authority in a statement this week has accepted that much of the lead present is tri-ethyl, which is used as a petrol additive. Analysis of the tissues of birds has shown concentrations of lead between 10 and 40 times higher than normal.

Anarchist trial jurors complain about judge

By Annabel Ferriman

Four of the jurors who were criticized by Judge Alan King-Hamilton, QC, for returning a verdict of not guilty in the recent anarchist trial have written to Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, complaining about the judge's "insulting" remarks.

The letter states: "Not only did he criticize our verdict, but his remarks cast aspersions on our integrity as jurors and on our intelligence as people. We took our role very seriously and, as our oath obliges us to, considered the case according to the evidence produced in court before us."

The jurors point out that the trial of Ronan Bennett, Iris Mills and others lasted three months and that they had to give up their jobs for that time. "Although it was an onerous service, it was one we were willing, as citizens, to provide."

"It was, in our view, reprehensible of the judge to criticize us publicly on two occasions. We had no equivalent opportunity to air our views about his remarks. Though he made his remarks in open court in the full knowledge that they would be reported, he told us not to talk to the press."

"As a direct result of the judge's remarks, some jurors have, since the trial, found themselves under considerable strain and pressure."

The four jurors, who did not take one another's addresses during the trial and have just managed to trace one another, ask for an explanation as to why the judge was allowed to make his remarks and for an assurance that in future trials jurors will not be subjected to the same treatment.

They say: "We feel that such treatment would lead to an unhealthy reluctance on the part of the jury to make their own verdict according to their conscience, and instead put them under pressure to attach too much importance to the judge's indication of the view of the court or the views of the defendants."

They object to the fact that they were not told in advance they were going to be vetted and asked an undertaking that the fact they returned a verdict of not guilty would not be recorded against their names in police files.

A spokeswoman for the four jurors said yesterday that they stuck by their verdict, despite the evidence that came out at the trial of Mr Stuart Carr, another anarchist, which the judge had made them sit through the day after the original trial ended.

That evidence had not come out before, and they had not known about it so it was irrelevant to their decision. If it had been brought out during the original trial, the defence counsel would have questioned it and they had all felt angry and humiliated by the judge's remarks.

Probation changes sought

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

A change of attitude is needed by courts towards petty persistent offenders the report of a seminar held by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders says today.

If probation officers are to supervise more such people it says, courts will need to accept the probability of many petty recidivists returning soon on further, albeit minor, charges.

The seminar was attended by Sir Arthur Peterson, former police, academics, senior civil servants, educationists, probation officers, and representatives of other law enforcement agencies.

WEST EUROPE

Controversy revived over location of European Parliament

From David Wood
Strasbourg, Jan 16

Controversy over a single site for the European Parliament has been revived in party group meetings here today as tactical dispositions are made for a decision that has to be taken by the Parliament's President and group leaders tomorrow.

If in April or May plenary sessions are to resume in Luxembourg after more than a year, the Parliament's Managerial Bureau must decide tomorrow.

In Luxembourg the new "hemicycle" big enough to take the enlarged Parliament of 410 members, is being furnished. Flats for MEPs form part of the scheme.

By a one-vote majority the Socialist group, the strongest numerically, has decided that there must be only two parliamentary working places: one, for plenary sessions, in Strasbourg and a second, for committee and group meetings, in Brussels.

German Socialists with French support have roundly said that they will not attend plenary sessions in Luxembourg if the Managerial Bureau attempts to continue the old system used by the defunct delegated Parliament.

British Conservatives in the European Democratic Group have before them a report from Mr Alan Tyrrell, QC, who says that if the three Parliament, not the Council of Ministers, to settle where the European Parliament should meet.

Feeling is strong that Brussels is the sensible site for all parliamentary activity, and the administrative headquarters.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Paris journalists' macabre protest at redundancies

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 16

Forty-five journalists of the independent, conservative newspaper *L'Aurore* chose a sinister charade today to highlight their dismissal. Each held a placard inscribed "L'Aurore: L'ancien journal - Héros du journalisme".

The journalists are complaining at the loss of plurality of the French press in general, and of the one in Paris in particular. As well as the dismissal of half the editorial staff, *L'Aurore's* editorial staff. The two papers already share editorial and advertising copy and the journalists claim that *L'Aurore* has become the "outer cover" of *Le Figaro*.

One journalist, Claude Proulx, who also was on the dismissal list, will keep his job. He is the delegate of the journalists' union and the Ministry of Labour has refused to give permission to the management to dismiss him. His dismissal was "unjustified and based on a trivial accusation".

Berlinguer meeting called off by Herr Brandt

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Jan 16

In a double announcement the headquarters of the Communist Party first stated in tones of applied joy that Signor Berlinguer, the party leader, would be going to Bonn today for a meeting with Herr Willy Brandt, chairman of the West German Social Democrats, and then said two hours later that he would not.

By explanation it merely stated that Herr Brandt found himself too involved with preparations for a Bundestag debate opening tomorrow on Afghanistan and had to put off their meeting to some unspecified date in the future.

The meeting would have had much importance for the Italian Communists especially at this particular moment in which Signor Berlinguer, who has condemned the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, was hoping to gain a breakthrough in his proposal for a European initiative.

Left-wing sources here attribute the sudden reversal of Herr Brandt's attitude to pressures brought to bear on him. It was pointed out that Mr Warren Christopher, the American Deputy Secretary of State would also be in Bonn today.

It was also suggested that some elements in Herr Brandt's own party might feel they would lose votes if their leader was seen in friendly touch with a communist.

Basque militant shot dead on his doorstep

San Sebastián, Jan 16—A left-wing Basque nationalist was shot dead on his doorstep early today near San Sebastián, the police said.

No details were known of the attack on Señor Carlos Saldaña Cortés, a 33-year-old militant of the Herri Batasuna coalition which supports the military wing of the Basque separatist group ETA.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, the fifth fatal shooting in the Basque country this year. The four other killings were claimed by ETA—Reuter.

Man stopped as he runs towards Pope

Rome, Jan 16—An unidentified man carrying a placard ran towards the Pope during his general audience today but was restrained by a Swiss guard before reaching the Pontiff.

The Vatican said the man, in his forties, jumped over a low wooden barrier and ran down the aisle of the main audience hall holding a placard over his head.

Vatican sources believed there were no political motives involved and speculated that the man was of deranged mind. He was turned over to the Italian police—UPI.

West Germans relieved at small rise in low birth rate

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Jan 16

West Germans who thought that in a couple of centuries there would be too few of them to fill even a sailing-decker bus may breathe again. Figures from the Federal Statistical Office show that West Germans may at last be more willing to breed.

Between 1965 and 1978, annual births dropped by almost 50 per cent, from 1,044,000 to 576,000. West Germans now produce approximately 0.65 of a baby each, the lowest birth rate in the world.

But incomplete figures show that births began to increase slightly from the middle of last year. By the end of October, the last month for which figures are available, there were 489,000 births, which means that by the end of the year between 4,000 and 5,000 more babies will probably have been born than in the previous year.

Experts in the Health and Family Ministry think that the increase may partly be because, from July last year, maternity leave increased from two to six months and maternity allowances of up to £200 were introduced. The plans were known well in advance.

The experts believe the increase may also be influenced by the higher unemployment among women.

The fact that the tiny rise in the birth rate can be splashed on the front page of a German newspaper, the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, is an indication of its political importance here.

A main plank in the Opposition Christian Democrats' election platform is a plan to encourage women to stay at home and have babies.

Unwilling terror aid criticized

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Ways in which security firms and insurance companies seeking to protect people from terrorist kidnapping can unwittingly increase danger are described by Mr B. Hayes, Assistant Chief Constable responsible for operations in Surrey Constabulary in the international quarterly *Police Studies*.

Private agencies in one sense provide a worthwhile service by protecting individuals and organizations who can afford the cost, he says. But in other ways they perpetuate and increase the violence associated with terrorism by driving the terrorists to greater efforts to attain a well-protected target.

"In the field of kidnapping, particularly in countries as far apart as Italy and Colombia, representatives of these organizations have sought to act as private negotiators between the kidnappers and the victims' relatives or employers."

"This has operated to the disadvantage of the victims, the relatives, the police in the country concerned, and society in general."

With the growth of the special security industry, insurance companies have increasingly issued policies against the risk of kidnapping, Mr Hayes says.

"As a natural progression, terrorists, extremists and criminals are encouraged to kidnap well-insured individuals, knowing that a ransom is capable of being paid. Families and employers are encouraged to negotiate with the kidnappers, often against the law, and using the professional negotiator."

"This frustrates the efforts of the security forces, and lowers their image in the eyes of the public, while at the same time enhancing the standing of the terrorist."

"In this respect, it might be felt that the hard line constantly adopted by the Israelis and by the West Germans in the Schleyer case and the Italians in the Moro case is the only long-term solution."

60 MPs condemn dismissal of prison visitor

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Sixty Labour MPs have so far signed an early day motion put down yesterday by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party's civil liberties group, after its meeting with the Home Secretary, Mr William Whitelaw.

The motion condemns the action by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, when Mr Politzer's "only offence was to tell the truth about the incident at the prison on August 31". The motion calls on Mr Politzer to be reinstated with the recommendation of the May committee for a "new openness of approach" and "openness of mind" by the Home Office towards public discussion of prison matters.

Mr Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, has also asked Mr Whitelaw to clarify the position of Miss Kay Douglas-Scott, another voluntary worker at the prison, who has been put under pressure. Like Mr Politzer she appeared on the television programme *Thames News*.

Civil defence-2: Blue plastic domes and white dustbins mark underground regional HQs Government plans a do-it-yourself approach to survival

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government's south-eastern regional headquarters, to be used during a nuclear attack, are dug deep under a wooded hill.

The way in, behind a caged entrance, is down a gently sloping corridor, three cricket pitches in length. The accommodation, which amounts to a three-storey office block underground, is air-conditioned by a ventilation system which keeps out nuclear-active dust. There are massive standby generators capable of powering the headquarters' lighting, air conditioning, and communications systems.

After a nuclear attack, any person arriving there would have to change his clothing at the entrance and brush himself free of fall-out dust.

Messages will arrive in the communications centre 30ft below ground level via a telephone switchboard or teleprinter system.

There is a separate teleprinter system for the scientific room, which will be the monitoring centre for radioactivity in the area covered by the headquarters.

Another room has been set aside for broadcasting. The BBC will bring its own equipment if an international crisis develops, and war seems inevitable.

Apart from offices there is a conference room where discussions on the latest information can be chaired by the sub-regional commissioner.

In addition to the conference room on the first floor, the regional commissioner, sub-regional commissioner and a senior member of staff, have offices with beds (army-pattern) folded against the wall.



A nuclear underground regional headquarters during a flooding emergency.

The second floor is given largely to living quarters, but there is a separate self-contained sick room. Alongside the restaurant the stainless steel of a white tiled well-equipped kitchen gleams.

The headquarters are part of a nationwide communications and proposed wartime government centres.

Information about attacks, bomb bursts and fall-out will originate at the United Kingdom's warning and monitoring organization, which is considered to be Britain's best prepared civil defence asset.

Information will be collected first at field level by 873 monitoring posts, manned by members of the Royal Observer Corps. One typical post lies 200 yards from a main road concealed in a thicket.

Above ground, the only unusual signs are a blue plastic dome and a white dustbin.

The first is in fact the ionization chamber of the fixed survey meter for measuring radiation levels. The other encases four pinhole cameras so arranged that a nuclear burst in any direction from the post would record a mark indicating the bearing and elevation of the explosion. Another instrument records the peak pressure of an explosion and others give meteorological information.

About 20 feet below ground

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Landowners 'cannot rely on relief from tax'

By John Young
Planning Reporter

"Landowners lived in a dream world if they pinned their hopes on future tax concessions as a way out of their economic difficulties," Lord Northfield, chairman of the recent committee of inquiry into the acquisition and occupancy of agricultural land, said yesterday.

Addressing a conference in London organized by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Lord Northfield remarked on the vast change in the prosperity and future expectations of the farming industry. A typical 1,000-acre estate was worth £1m. "Just what capital tax reliefs can we expect from governments on personal holdings of this market value?" he asked.

The idea that payment of capital transfer tax or its equivalent should be deferred until the inheritor sold all or part of the property was hardly likely to gain acceptance, he suggested.

"It would mean that land-owning would become a tax haven on a vast scale, with future generations assured of good living off totally protected capital, including that proportion of the assets that would otherwise have to be surrendered or sold to pay some form of estate duty."

Commander Michael Saunders Watson, a member of the taxation committee of the Country Landowners' Association, argued that few landowners saw their property either as an asset which could be disposed of for quick profits or as a long-term investment. They saw their role as one of long-term management combining the encouragement of rural industries such as agriculture and forestry with the active enhancement of the countryside, and the security and wellbeing of those who worked in it.

Move to make polluters pay urged by councils

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Those responsible for causing pollution at sea should bear all the costs involved both for preventive measures and for dealing with pollution after it has occurred, the Association of County Councils believes.

In evidence to the Royal Commission on Marine Oil Pollution, the association seeks to ensure that that is done. It also supports a move to set up a European fund to which potential polluters in Europe would contribute to cover the costs of both identified and unidentified pollution.

Mr Geoffrey Waterer, chairman of the association's consumer services committee, said: "Recent incidents, including the *Tarpenbek* off the Isle of Wight and the *Eleni V* in the North Sea, have highlighted the unsatisfactory nature of existing compensation arrangements."

Mr Waterer added that improvements in the international arrangements should be accompanied by much more vigorous and effective enforcement and control by the Government.

Teachers back the cane

The National Union of Teachers has decided not to campaign for the abolition of corporal punishment. Only 10 per cent of branches that responded to a questionnaire were in favour of abolition.

Guarantee company pledge to reconsider man's case

By Craig Seton

An insurance company that refused a fidelity bond for a paint sprayer who was dismissed by a motor group as a result, said yesterday that it would reconsider his case if he submits character references.

The Kennings Motor Group, which requires all employees to be covered by fidelity bonds to ensure against dishonesty, had dismissed Mr Hans Welge from his £75-a-week job at its garage in Colchester, Essex.

Mr Welge, aged 34, a German, had been employed by the garage for two months. "Someone has slipped up here and it is up to the insurance people to publicly clear my name," he said yesterday.

Mr Welge, who said he had never been in trouble with the police, or in debt, or dismissed from a previous job, demanded that the Guarantee Society, a subsidiary of the General Accident Insurance Group, explain the reasons for not giving him cover.

Mr Welge, who lives at Wivenhoe, near Colchester, with his English wife and two children, said he had provided the Kennings Group with the names of two previous employers, one in England and one in Germany. The German company had given him "an excellent reference" but he understood his English employers had not been approached.

The Kennings Group, which has admitted that Mr Welge was a "first-class worker", said last night that if the difficulty could be cleared up by the society, Mr Welge would be reinstated. The company did not know the insurer's objection to his employment.

The society issued a statement yesterday saying it reconsidered any adverse decision whenever an applicant provided satisfactory character references from all employers over the previous three years.

The facility had been offered and explained to Mr Welge, but he had not taken it up. The spokesman said it was not clear whether the facility was offered before Mr Welge was dismissed or afterwards.

The company refused to give reasons for its decision over Mr Welge, but said: "There is a basis at the moment for cover having been withheld. There is a problem and we realize he is genuinely upset". But it would happily reconsider his application if he submitted the necessary references.

The society added that it was a condition of cover in fidelity insurance that an employer sought references before employing anyone who might handle money, stocks or accounts. The society provided an inquiry service into potential employers' references.

The British Insurance Association said yesterday that fidelity insurance was a specialist class of business and was usually applied to employees who handled large sums of money and ensured that any losses were recovered in the event of theft or dishonesty. Some companies covered all their employees.

مكازم التحصيل

WEST EUROPE

Synod debate reveals Dutch Catholics split into five groups

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Jan 16

It was a predominantly bleak day at the Dutch synod in the Vatican. The more starry-eyed supporters of innovation were reminded early that a state of communion within the Church could never be limited by human concepts nor lived on earth in all its perfection.

This was the second day of debate on the report of the synod's secretary on the Pope's summons to the Dutch bishops to this unprecedented special synod.

More by luck than any sleight of hand on the part of the synod's secretary, the criticisms of some of the Dutch experiments coincided with publication by the Vatican of a much fuller summary of the discussions, though individual speakers were not identified.

There was much talk of groups. The old problem of the subjective in religious belief between those whose point of departure is what the faith affirms and those who begin from what they themselves feel.

An example given was the liturgy's so-called "renewal" by the following the Second Vatican Council and the Roman Missal, while others wanted to introduce into the liturgy elements from their own experience.

Another attempt at grouping the feelings prevalent among Dutch Catholics ended by identifying five. The first was of long-standing fidelity to the Church with roots going back before the Second Vatican Council with respect to authority and the life of prayer.

Then there was a numerous group of average Catholics who loved the Church, were active and interested in the realities of the world.

A smaller third group had drifted away from the institutional Church because it saw it as being in opposition to evangelical values.

A fourth group was on the frontier: it had not left the Church explicitly and still turned to it in different

moments and at times of vital decisions.

A final group was totally outside the Church and the faith but remained open to invitations on the part of the Church to return.

Some Dutch Catholics had the impression of being misunderstood by certain bishops and by Rome. Their difficulties were also due to the mass media and the human sciences. In the new context, and in the search for new church structures, a popularization had taken shape above all because of the efforts of small groups and periodicals.

On the whole, the Dutch Catholic community remained normal in so far as the work of the priests, the attachment to the papal authority and parish life went. Not only the Netherlands was in this position: the same could be said of all churches with a silent majority and some activists.

There was a drop in belief in the Real Presence at the Eucharist, in the character of sacrifice of the Mass, in the sacramental character of the priesthood and a falling off in the practice of confession. The sacraments were reduced too much to psychological level and more attention was given to the Scriptures than to tradition in the Church.

Not all was so sombre. The criticisms of the Roman Curia, the Church's central administration, grew from the quarrels of the past 20 years, and from the lack of direct contacts which should be planned and continuous.

An exaggerated pessimism on the present situation could give the impression of a lack of confidence on the part of the faithful who had difficulty in following the Church because they felt misunderstood.

But there was cause for moderate optimism because never before had there been such active participation by many lay people who know their own responsibilities and those of the bishop.

New claims in affair of Bokassa diamonds

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 16

Once again *Le Canard Enchaîné*, the satirical French weekly, is "digging for diamonds". A new document on the "affair of the Bokassa diamonds" involving President Giscard d'Estaing has been published in today's issue.

It is a letter signed by M. Hugues Dohouendi, the Central African Finance Minister, and addressed to the former Emperor Bokassa, dated March 20, 1978. It asks for the "carbon copies of the orders and the correspondence to the Comptoir National des Diamants, French section, and concerning the President of the Republic as well as French personalities, for registration purposes".

In the upper left corner of the published letter is, in M. Bokassa's handwriting, the word "accord" (agreed), his signature and the date.

Last October *Le Canard Enchaîné* began publishing facsimile documents concerning alleged gifts of diamonds from the former Emperor to M. Giscard d'Estaing.

When the President was questioned about this on television on November 27, he replied that "one must let base things die of their own poison".

There was no comment from the Elysée Palace today.

In the same issue this journal also claims that "French teams" combed the palace in Senegal after the Emperor's fall and found a ring with a 62-carat diamond as well as a jar containing thousands of uncut diamonds.

EEC move on trade relief for Yugoslavs

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 16

News of President Tito's ill-health, and fear that Moscow might seek to influence events in Yugoslavia were he removed from the scene, have spurred the EEC into trying to accelerate agreement on long stalled trade concessions to the Yugoslavs.

Despite frequent statements of support for Yugoslavia's independent position in the communist world, powerful economic and trading interests in EEC member states have so far blocked attempts to give Yugoslavs more generous access to Community markets.

Yugoslavia's trade deficit with the EEC is currently running at an annual rate of more than £1,500m—a huge burden for an economy of its size.

For the past year the European Commission has been trying to persuade member states to offer more extensive tariff-free access to Yugoslav industrial goods. But hitherto the member states have insisted on maintaining quantitative limits on the duty-free access of more than 50 items.

These include many semi-finished products, non-ferrous metals, glass, shoes, leather goods and some chemicals. The Commission agrees with the Yugoslavs that this is excessive and also wants the EEC to relax restrictions on imports of agricultural goods.

EEC foreign ministers yesterday instructed their per-

manent representatives in Brussels to draw up a mandate for the Commission to make an improved offer to Yugoslavia. It is hoped that the Commission would be able to report back on the Yugoslav response to the next meeting of the EEC foreign ministers on February 5.

The foreign ministers also gave a sympathetic hearing to a West German proposal for closer economic and commercial cooperation with the Gulf states—Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman.

The Germans suggest that the agreement the EEC is due to sign next month in Kuala Lumpur with the Asian countries—Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines—should be the model for the new relationship with the Gulf states.

Although the German idea pre-dates events in Afghanistan, Bonn argues that it has acquired new relevance because of the sharpening of the Soviet threat to the region, and that it should be seen as more than simply a means of securing oil supplies.

The German initiative has been inspired to a large degree by the lack of progress in the so-called Euro-Arab dialogue, an attempt launched by the EEC after the 1973 oil crisis to establish closer relations with the Arab world in general.

Bonn contends that the Nine would do better to concentrate their efforts on a smaller group of Arab countries which not only have close ties of friendship with several EEC states, but also have close historical links with each other and share a broadly similar outlook.

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What have the next 3½ years got to offer you?

Crisis in Belgium as party withdraws from coalition

Brussels, Jan 16.—Belgium has been plunged into a new political crisis today after one of the five political parties withdrew from the centre-left coalition because of disagreement on constitutional reforms.

Mr. Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister, announced that King Baudouin had accepted the resignation of the two ministers and one deputy minister belonging to the Brussels-based Front Démocratique des Francophones (FDF).

The four remaining parties, the French-speaking and Flemish-speaking wings of the Social Christians and Socialists, still have a working majority in Parliament.

But the FDF's defection deprives them of the two-thirds majority needed to push through constitutional amendments granting a large measure of autonomy to the regions. The amendments are an attempt to reduce antagonism between the Flemish and French-speaking communities.

The resigning Government members are: Mr. Lucien Outers, the Foreign Commerce Minister; Mr. Léon Defosset, the Minister for Brussels Affairs; and Mr. François

Personas, Secretary of State for French Community Affairs.

The crisis resulted from the disclosure of a secret agreement between the three French-speaking coalition members designed to guarantee that the Flemish national majority could not dictate to French-speaking Wallonia and Brussels.

The Flemish Social Christians, Mr. Martens's party, said such an agreement was unconstitutional and asked the Prime Minister for clarification.

The cabinet today ruled that inter-party agreements must not flout the constitution and curtail the freedom of individual parliamentarians, informed political sources said.

Finding itself abandoned by the French-speaking Social Christians and Socialists, the FDF, led by Mrs. Antoinette Spaak, daughter of the late Paul-Henry Spaak, decided to withdraw from the nine-month-old Government.

Mr. Martens will make a policy statement to the Parliament tomorrow and ask for a vote of confidence, Mr. Willy Claus, the Deputy Premier, said. —Reuters.

French court hard put to cope with appeals flood

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan 16

Cases being referred to the Supreme Court of Justice in France are growing so fast in number that the judges are increasingly unable to keep up with them. One of the main reasons is the number of cassation judgments made in the lower courts, according to the court's latest annual report.

In the past six years the Supreme Court's work has increased by 50 per cent, partly due to the growing tendency by convicted people to take their case to the ultimate court of appeal, but also because of the growth in delinquency. There is also the fact that measures taken in recent years allow access to the law by poorer people.

The economic crisis has also played its part with more people going to law for compensation after being made redundant.

This pressure on the court

meant that it dealt with 14,242 cases last year, compared with 12,594 in 1977, but at the same time the waiting list for judgments grew.

The court is worried that this growing and inevitable delay in obtaining a hearing will result in fewer people being prepared to put their cases forward even though they ought to do so. At the same time the court is worried that sheer pressure of work could mean its own decisions will be of a poorer quality.

Civil cases represent two thirds of the court's work, although appeals in this field are growing more slowly than in penal cases which jumped by 14.7 per cent over the previous year. The court quashed all three death sentences passed by lower courts.

The court has also noticed an increasing number of people seeking compensation for false imprisonment. These cases used to average about 30 a year but last year the court dealt with 57.

Thieves take £1m cash from aircraft they told to halt

Rome, Jan 16.—A pilot was duped into halting a Swissair DC9 airliner about to take off from Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport, while thieves stole two pouches containing about £1m worth of cash from its cargo hold.

Police said the thieves dressed in fake airline overalls radioed the pilot from an airport vehicle to stop the aircraft for an urgent check of leaking fuel. They then drove out, opened the cargo hold and stole the bags.

Minutes after the theft the aircraft left for Zurich, with its pilot unaware that the theft had taken place.

The thieves, after taking the bag, radioed "all OK" and the aircraft having received clearance, turned on to the runway and took off.

Only minutes later did the pilot mention the incident to the Rome control tower, whose staff, surprised by what seemed to be an irregular procedure by technicians, began inquiries.

Swissair refused to comment on the theft. Police believe the theft must have been organized by aircraft employees who knew of the cargo. —Reuters, AP.

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AFGHANISTAN/IRAN

US studies new security arrangement in SW Asia

From David Cross

Washington, Jan 16

President Carter is considering building a strengthened framework for regional cooperation in South-West Asia, Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, disclosed today.

Certain elements already in the Administration's strategy would be included, he said, such as increased American forces in the Indian Ocean area; increased assistance to nations in the area, such as Pakistan, which are threatened by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan; and encouragement of regional peace efforts between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

The idea of what the American press has already described as a new "Carter Doctrine" was first mentioned by Mr Vance in a speech in Bratislava, the President's national security adviser, in an interview with the Wall Street Journal yesterday.

"We are prepared to work to create a cooperative security framework for the region in a variety of ways," Mr Brzezinski said. "This doesn't require, in all cases, either physical or formal arrangements of the kind that have come to be associated with the other areas (like Nato)."

"Nonetheless, the trend is towards increased military presence in the region, towards greater utilization of available facilities, towards a regional security framework including also the United States."

Full details of the Administration's thinking are expected next week when President Carter delivers his annual State of the Union message to a joint session of Congress here.

Asked about the possible American use of military facilities in Kenya, Somalia and Oman, Mr Vance said today that "reactions arising from our preliminary discussions have been positive."

However, American plans concentrated in the United States bases, but the use of facilities that exist in various countries which would be available to the United States in connection with the increased presence which the United States has there and would tend to keep there for the foreseeable future."

The Secretary of State also played down possible future co-operation between Washington and Peking.

Meanwhile, Mr Harold Brown, the Defence Secretary, has said that some of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan have reached the borders with Pakistan and Iran. "Any further action by them to go beyond (Afghanistan) into Iran or Pakistan would be very, very much more serious still," he said.

Tory urges US war threat against Cuba

By Our Political Editor

Growing Conservative back-bench pressure for counter-measures against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan now include urgings to encourage the United States to threaten to "take" Cuba.

At a private meeting on Tuesday evening of the Conservative foreign affairs committee some right wingers were reported to be electrified—and more moderate MPs in a state of consternation—to hear Mr Peter Tapsell, the former front bench spokesman on Treasury and Foreign Affairs, demand warlike retaliation.

Mr Tapsell wanted the Russians to be given an ultimatum to withdraw from Afghanistan and if they did not, for the United States to invade Cuba.

Communist parties critical of Soviet intervention rebuked for using 'bourgeois' arguments

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Jan 16

The Russians today hit back strongly at those communist parties which have criticised the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, using "bourgeois" arguments and misrepresenting international solidarity.

In a clear reply to the Italian, British, Yugoslav and other European parties that have condemned the Soviet actions, an editorial in the influential weekly *Venya Trud* said most communist parties, especially those in the Soviet bloc, had issued statements "evaluating recent events" from class and internationalist positions. In other words, supporting the Russians.

The magazine listed some of the parties which, it said, had given a resolute rebuttal to the slanderous campaign unleashed by the enemies of peace and détente.

But against this background "the biased comments of some organs of the communist press are clearly dissonant." The framework for the events in Afghanistan in a distorted light, using arguments from bourgeois sources.

This was "all the more strange" as they had ignored the official statements of the Afghan Government.

Carrington visit to Khyber Pass

From David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

Khyber Pass, Jan 16

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, came face-to-face with the Afghan Army at the top of the Khyber Pass today. The detachment of Afghan soldiers which guarded the frontier post, no more than a simple guard post, stood at attention as the British minister, dressed in a simple brown jacket, looked somewhat bemused at his arrival.

Down the road behind the guard post stood a white fort with a red flag, and beyond that a stupendous panorama of mountain peaks, range upon range, leading into the heart of Afghanistan.

Lord Carrington, with a garland of yellow flowers round his neck, was quickly surrounded by a crowd of curious tribesmen who had come in from their mountain villages.

One of the maliks or tribal elders, began explaining to the Foreign Secretary what had happened to them. Their homes, he said, had been strafed by Russian helicopter gunships and their people had been bombed with napalm.

Before flying off in a helicopter to inspect a refugee camp, Lord Carrington was given a crisp analysis of the military position by the corps commander, Lieutenant-General Fazle-Haq, Governor of the North West Province.

Pakistan, he said, shared a border of 1,200 miles with Afghanistan, but its rugged, mountainous terrain made it difficult or even impossible to control.

The military danger, as the general sees it, is that when the campaigning season started in April or May, the tribesmen would start to make forays across the border to harass the Russians. He said the present situation could lead to a deep strike inside Pakistan.

At a final press conference in the elegant ballroom of the Governor's Residence, Lord Carrington gave his impressions, before flying on to Delhi. Britain would do what it could to help, he said. "You know that Pakistan has the support of Britain in its determination to maintain its own integrity and independence as a nation," he said.

New Times said a lively discussion had started among left-wing forces on the nature and

of internationalist solidarity. The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, they said, was a revolutionary act, forced to resist the subversive activities and aggression of imperialism, and on the compatibility of internationalist solidarity with the principles of non-interference in inter-state relations.

The point at issue was whether the Americans and the Russians were equally guilty for the situation in Afghanistan. "Such an approach is completely unjustified because it completely ignores the chief factor," namely the radical difference in the nature and foreign policy objectives between socialism and imperialism.

Although some communist parties admitted that the Americans "had carried out subversive activities in Afghanistan," they assumed a dual position; on the one hand welcoming the Afghan revolution, condemning the excesses of the Amin regime and wishing the new leadership success, but on the other hand voicing doubts about the advisability of Soviet military assistance to Afghanistan.

Some even went as far as describing it as interference, damaging the country's sovereignty and the cause of peace.

"In this case, one is bound to ask: what then is international solidarity among revolutionaries? Does it boil down only to moral and diplomatic support and verbal wishes of success, or does it consist of providing, under certain extraordinary conditions, a material, including military assistance?"

The journal, in a clear reference to Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan, said that in cases where such an "extreme need" had arisen, the Soviet Union had acted "in full accord with the norms of peaceful coexistence laid down in international treaties."

To have denied help to Afghanistan would have left the Afghan revolution and people "defenceless, prey to class enemies, imperialism and feudal reaction."

The Russians have clearly been stung by some of the harsh words from those parties which, however, Euro-communist, and feel this can only weaken a position which they must know, following their massive defeat in the United Nations General Assembly, is increasingly hard to justify at home.

Japan's dilemma, page 18

time it would become a Soviet base—at the invitation of a friend."

He went on to call on other nations "to beware and to understand why we unreservedly reject not only the establishment of a Palestinian state but also the formation of a corridor liable to lead to it."

It was against this background and other events in the region that he had talked with President Sadat. These events included the flow of advanced Soviet arms to Syria, the acquisition by Jordan of advanced weaponry, the presence of Russians and Cubans in South Yemen and the sale of sophisticated American arms to Saudi Arabia.

Mr Begin said that progress had been made on a number of issues involved in the imminent normalization of relations with Egypt. Talks on the proposed telephone, telex and airline links would be held next week.

Mr Begin added: "If a Soviet invasion is assistance to a friend, what, God forbid, would be liable to happen were we to establish in the land of Israel, or a similar creation under the rule of the Kadomim and the Arafats, he said in reference to two leading PLO officials. "Within a very short

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Karmal drive to gain legitimacy in foreign eyes

From Robert Fisk

Kabul, Jan 16

Having consolidated its hold on Afghanistan with the assistance of Soviet troops, the Government of Mr Babrak Karmal is placing increasing emphasis on seeking international legitimacy.

Daily newspapers in Kabul now carry prominent reports of favourable reactions to the new regime from Syria, Kampuchea and India as well as the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

In a long letter to the Ayatollah yesterday, the new Afghan leader criticised the adverse reaction in Iran to his Soviet-supported coup—this was a veiled reference to the condemnation by Iranian religious leaders—and sought to assure the Ayatollah that the murder of Muslim leaders in Afghanistan had been brought to an end with the overthrow of the Amin regime in Kabul.

Aware of Iranian fears that Afghanistan may be used as a springboard for a Soviet attack, Mr Karmal continued: "My Government will never allow anybody to use our soil as a base against the Islamic revolution of Iran and against the people of the fraternal Iranian people. We expect our Iranian brothers to take an identical stance."

The new Government here has also been publishing messages of support from groups of Pushtun and Baluchi tribesmen—whose repression under Mr Hafizullah Amin the Islamic clergy have often complained—and a message from Amnesty International expressing satisfaction with the release of political prisoners was given front-page treatment in the Afghan press.

However, Mr Karmal's campaign for respectability has a long way to go. The British, French, German and Italian Ambassadors, who were recalled after the coup, are still absent. The American Embassy, which has been in the care of a chargé d'affaires since the murder of the United States Ambassador during the previous regime, is unlikely to upgrade its political representation in the near future.

Most Western embassies, including the British, flew their flags at half mast this week when the new Afghan Government called a "day of mourning" in memory of those who were murdered under Mr Amin's rule. But the British did not sign the Government's official condolence message, a move which was interpreted as a ground that this would constitute recognition of Mr Karmal's regime.

Mr Karmal said that progress had been made on a number of issues involved in the imminent normalization of relations with Egypt. Talks on the proposed telephone, telex and airline links would be held next week.

Mr Karmal added: "If a Soviet invasion is assistance to a friend, what, God forbid, would be liable to happen were we to establish in the land of Israel, or a similar creation under the rule of the Kadomim and the Arafats, he said in reference to two leading PLO officials. "Within a very short

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Mr Karmal added: "If a Soviet invasion is assistance to a friend, what, God forbid, would be liable to happen were we to establish in the land of Israel, or a similar creation under the rule of the Kadomim and the Arafats, he said in reference to two leading PLO officials. "Within a very short

time it would become a Soviet base—at the invitation of a friend."

He went on to call on other nations "to beware and to understand why we unreservedly reject not only the establishment of a Palestinian state but also the formation of a corridor liable to lead to it."

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OVERSEAS



Paul McCartney, in handcuffs, is led away by police.

Paul McCartney arrested in Tokyo

Tokyo, Jan 16.—Paul McCartney, the former Beatle, was

arrested by customs officers

when he arrived at Tokyo airport from New York for a tour

with his group Wings, and later

questioned by Narcotics Control officials.

A customs spokesman said

Mr McCartney and his suitcase

were searched and about 220

grams (8oz) of marijuana worth

600,000 yen (£1,116) were con-

fiscated.

The Narcotics Control officers

questioned him for about an

hour and said the questioning

would continue tomorrow. They

gave no details.

The Japanese promoters said

they would decide tomorrow

whether to cancel the 11 per-

formances scheduled by Mr Mc-

Cartney, aged 37, and his group.

He was to give them in Tokyo,

Osaka and Nagoya from Janu-

ary 21 to February 2. The tour

has been sold, representing a

possible loss of well over

100m yen (£185,000),

music industry sources said.

Mr McCartney was accom-

panied by his wife, Linda, and

four children.—Reuter.

Beit Bridge troops defended

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent,

Westminster

Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord

Privy Seal and principal

spokesman in the Commons on

foreign affairs, came under

intense pressure yesterday to

take action over the South

African troops that Lord

Somers has agreed should

remain in Southern Rhodesia

to guard the Beit Bridge.

That decision has met with

criticism from the Patriotic

Front and from the front-line

Presidents as a breach of the

Lancaster House agreement and

of assurances given to Parlia-

ment by Sir Ian and Lord

Carrington, the Foreign Secretary.

Sir Ian was clearly not

altogether at ease over the situa-

tion as Mr Peter Shore, Opposi-

tion spokesman on foreign

affairs, reminded him that a

specific pledge was given that

no foreign forces would be

allowed to remain in Rhodesia.

While agreeing that the Beit

Bridge was a crucial installa-

tion and must be properly

protected, it did not make

sense, he said, to have a large

number of troops in the area

and of building up trust

to allow it to be guarded by

South African forces.

He suggested that the task

could be done by using Rhodesian

security forces or by other

means available.

From the Liberal benches,

Mr David Steel, the party

leader, said that the use of

South African troops to guard

the bridge was a provocative

irritant in an otherwise totally

successful ceasefire solution.

He urged the Government to

look again at this.

There also appeared to be

some disquiet on the Tory

benches. Mr Peter Emery, Con-

servative MP for Hounslow, said

that this seemed a small prob-

lem but it had been built up to

major proportions.

He suggested that a Common-

SPORT

Football

Greenwood's men spared the worst

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Having qualified for their first important international competition in 10 years, England naturally hoped to begin next summer's European Championship in Italy against one of the less powerful nations. In that respect they were favoured by yesterday's draw which placed them in the second group, alongside Italy, Spain and Belgium. It also placed them in the group of the Italian hosts.

There being no easy passage to a final in which the winners of the first round will play in Rome on June 22, England were prepared for the worst. A defeat would have been considered to be group matches against West Germany and the Netherlands. They have been spared that and Italy, Spain and Belgium in the second group. The other group comprises West Germany, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia and Greece.

There is something to be said for meeting the Italians in the group rather than in the final, but that is to look further ahead. It is prudent when considering England's futures of the last decade, if they are to support the views of their manager, Ron Greenwood, who believes them to be "at least the fourth best team in Europe" they will need to be beaten by Italy, Spain and Belgium, and finish well against the next World Cup hosts, Spain, in Naples on June 18.

The match with Italy comes in the middle of the programme on June 15 in Turin. As the Italians finish their group programme with a game against the Netherlands, England will almost certainly be drawn to meet them in the final. Although England will play with the dark memory of having lost a World Cup final to the Netherlands in 1938, they now have the advantage of being much more widely respected, not least by the Italians who lost

Draws for European competitions

European championship

GROUP 1
Rome, June 11: Czechoslovakia v Poland
Naples, June 11: Greece v Netherlands
Rome, June 14: Czechoslovakia v Greece
Naples, June 14: West Germany v Netherlands
Milan, June 17: Czechoslovakia v Poland
Turin, June 17: West Germany v Greece

GROUP 2

Milan, June 12: Spain v Italy
Turin, June 12: Belgium v England
Milan, June 15: Spain v Belgium
Turin, June 15: Italy v England
Naples, June 18: Spain v England
Rome, June 18: Italy v Belgium
Naples, June 21: Play-off for third place
Rome, June 22: Final

Under-21 championship

Quarter-final round
Czechoslovakia v Yugoslavia

with stars going through a spell of poor club form, but as Enzo Bearzot says, once they put on a national jersey things change. He emphasised that matches between England and Spain could not be described as "easy". However, England are fortunate to have a rehearsal for one of those group games when they play in Spain on March 26. The original plan was to test the water for the 1982 World Cup, but the game now has more urgent importance. It may offend Scots to hear of Belgium being considered the weakest members of England's group, for only last month they lost 2-1 to the Belgians in Glasgow. Recent form suggests that Belgium should do more than make up the numbers, and Spain

Cup winners' Cup

Quarter-final round
Arsenal v Tottenham
Barcelona v Valencia
Dynamo Moscow v Nantes
Rijeka v Juventus

Uefa Cup

Quarter-final round
St Etienne v Borussia Mönchengladbach
Kaiserslautern v Bayern Munich
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Boxing

Minter's big date is on Mothers' Day

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Tennis

Greater cost but more comfort and less distraction at Wimbledon

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Spectators at this year's Wimbledon

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Campbell faces the jeers of the crowd

A chronicle of current events

For all their tremulous and cowardly non-sequiturs, the hack shrinks were right about one thing: he was a danger to

live in Norway, whose decency and comparative calm still move and delight him.

This horrible story of dissidence, cruelty and persecutions is the prelude to the story of the subject of *History's Carnival*. That the KGB failed to destroy Plyuschii's mind is clear from the very existence of the book. Though somewhat dated, *History's Carnival* and *Chronology* it cannot be easy to order the patterns of the past without papers of any kind—it is extremely informative on the history and personality of the dissident in Russia, third city, Kiev, and is the work of a tirelessly curious and developing intelligence which has retained its faith in a Marxist future through an amazing combination of explorations and setbacks.

Two messages—neither, alas, very new, but none the less important—that resound through the book. The first is that the

Soviet Union is falsely constructed on an ideology imperfectly applied and now in irreversible decline, betraying Marx, Communism, and the laws of its own constitution, into a pitiless and inhuman race and imperialist greed. Only by forcing the regime to acknowledge its own lawlessness will change ever be made. The second—without which the first is impossible: a moral application—is that only in the nourishing of individual consciousness and the rebirth of self-respect, does the salvation of humankind lie. The third—our own life and experience he writes, as throughout, without arrogance or pride:

Tempe, and I, went over the last four years. Yes, they were worth going to prison for. They had been worth it. I had been able to respect others. I was going to prison not for the sake of respect for myself and others.

Like Solzhenitsyn, whom he reveres, he is profoundly dis-

may be by what he sees as the collapse of responsible or reputable authority since Nietzsche observed and announced the death of God. Unlike his hero, however, he does not believe that the Christian God is still alive—he is almost as much a nihilist as Nietzsche. At his meetings with Baptists in a wood outside Kiev—but neither, despite his beliefs and achievements, is he convinced that science, beauty, or nature can ever be filling the gap. Only a complete and painstaking renaissance of humanism, stone by stone, can do that.

In this process the written word remains of supreme importance, and indeed the independence of literature and life in Soviet Russia inform this book. It is precisely because true socialism is absent from the Soviet society that the author insists that it not be traduced in print, and the eternal cycle of Russian literature and history

Pylyushyn is particularly absorbed in Dostoevsky, Pasternak and the Ukrainian national poet, Shevchenko—is both a comfort and a challenge to the semizdr writer, typist or messenger today. Despite the conclusions of the psychiatrists appointed to examine him by the KGB, Pylyushyn is not playfully fool. He is sensible, witty, dignified and energetic. His book offers countless little insights into the last decade and the role of Soviet dissidents. He is replied eagerly as most novices to police interrogation do "and all the ironies of a Communist society in which the only Marxist in rehab was the only one who was politically reliable member. Most encouraging of all, he is still under 40, and readers of *History's Carnival* will find it hard to believe that he has so terribly earned his peace of mind in Norway, he remains off the stage of action for long.

Regina v Sheppard
Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Bridge and Mr Justice Woolf
[Judgment delivered - January 15, 1993]
The House of Lords is to consider the proper direction to give to a jury about what constitutes the necessary mens rea of an offence contrary to section 1 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933.

The prosecution relied on an important feature, namely, that the parents had failed to take the child to the appointed medical officer, whom three appointments had been made by a health visitor.

The case hinged on the construction of the word "wilfully" in section 1. The alternative arguments were: (1) if the person responsible for the acts complained of and they amounted to the commission of a crime, his knowledge or mental element was required; (2) "wilfully" required proof by the prosecution of an intention by the person charged that the act or omission was likely to be injurious and amounted to a neglect or culpable neglect.

The long-standing authority was *R v Senior* (1899) 1 QB 283, and no subsequent case had taken it from its place. In that case, as p 290, that "wilfully" means that the act was done deliberately or with knowledge of its nature or inadvisability, but so that the mind of the person goes with it. Negligence is not sufficient—that is, "in what steps as a reasonable parent would take" are provided for, and parents are not to be expected to enable him to take the necessary steps".

The judge followed the latest authority, *R v G (1997) 1 QB 913* (702), and directed the jury that "wilfully" meant simply that the prosecution did not have to prove that the parents foresaw any result but had to prove that the acts were deliberate.

The Lordships of the House could not take any action to disturb the appellants' conviction. However, they did not wish to make any secret of the fact that they thought the law was worthy of review. The appeal was dismissed.

An application for a certificate and leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused under section 36 of the Criminal Appeal Act, 1968, were granted. The question certified was "What was the charge of wilful neglect of a child under section 1 of the 1933 Act in relation to a child under 16 years of age, necessary mens rea of the offence?"

Solicitors: Registrars of Criminal Law, Mr. R. C. Beadon, Northampton.

High noon of Empire

This account of Lord Lytton's four years as Viceroy, which included the Second Afghan War, has indeed been blessed by fortune. It could not possibly have been timed with more exquisite topicality. Readers may fairly wonder whether any parallel could be drawn between the British advance on foot in the Afghan passes in the late 1870's and the Soviet airborne invasion of today, but on the political front there are indeed clear parallels between the problems facing the British and the Russians. How far, for instance, now, has a great power react, when its representatives are massacred and mutilated? At the time Afghanistan divided British opinion at least as deeply as Suez in 1956, and it certainly provided the Russian with a powerful counter-balance to the preferences between their advisers in Kabul and the decision-making bodies in the Kremlin. Afghanistan perfectly illustrated the tug-of-war between the Viceroy and the Foreign Secretary. Disraeli had chosen to pursue forward, and the Viceroy was determined to force the issue once he believed—rightly—that the

Ruler of Kabul was in league with the Russians. Lord Salisbury, then Foreign Secretary, when the forward policy ran the risk of being abandoned, selected the Cabinet that the man in the spot thought only of India, and was dictating from Delhi. Britain's whole policy in Europe and Turkey.

Any biographical study needs a good deal of good settings, and the author, a granddaughter of Lord Lytton's, could hardly be more fortunate in both. Lytton was a brilliant, but a very ordinary choice as Viceroy. At best a Liberal he was translated from a minor diplomatic post, without previous experience of administrative or governmental work, to a post of great ambition to become a romantic poet. He was demonstratively affectionate, unconventional and completely un-British. Two of his sons, and a small number of his friends were an uncle of Virginia Woolf and the father of Virginia Strachey. He seemed to epitomize those qualities less likely to win the understanding cooperation of those whose middle-class propriety and deep colour prejudices appalled him. His inveterate flirtatiousness with the wives of his friends, and his unimpeachable gossip but he was loved by those who knew him best.

The settings are equally

Ana No
By Agustin Gomez
Arcos
(Secker Warburg, £5.50)
Unity Penfold
By Margaret Tabo
(Heinemann, £5.95)

Not much of a sniff of the 1890 zeitgeist in my New Year jiffy-bag, but two books of some interest. When I was in Madrid last year, I heard a great deal about the renaissance of Spanish writings, and was interested to follow the departure of Franco, and the recent influx of Latin American intellectuals. Gomez-Arcos could not have hoped to be directly part of this (he was forced to leave Spain in 1966, and this book was evidently translated from French) but *Ano No* certainly begins usefully to open up the painful years since the Civil War. And if this novel is neither big enough nor solidly enough for that enormous work, at least it is passionately written.

Ser in the last years of Franco's power, events are seen through the eyes of an old Andalusian woman who lost her fisherman husband in the war and lived on in the Teruel front. Her narrative is on still roots in good at fifty-three; and all the incidents of the book are strung

along her difficult journey North to see him before she dies. Its strenuous lies in its lucid, unadorned and unadorned: the bleach and barstools of the kitchen she leaves; the almond oil and misseed of the cake she carries; and the landscapes she passes through until the rest: the Castilian ruins of the arch. In a snowy northern town she is given food by Franco's police, but it turns out that the gift involves her in a "spontaneous" demonstration of loyalty for the Generalissimo, which a whole line of memories have as much physical reality as the world she moves in; perhaps more, truly, for many of the encounters on the way have a surreal uncertainty which she deliberately ignores, and goes with a slightly awkward use of the present tense, does little to sharpen into significance.

Miss Tabor is a writer whose work I have not met before, and she has natural deftness and clarity to commend her, though she moves at the times in altogether unrecognizable a connection, the borderline between SF and the occult. The book turns on the old game of an alternative universe, and has its clichés ("But, there's always been a number 41 she craves"). Nevertheless, the work works, mainly through Miss Tabor's alert, off-catty observation, and partly because the alternative possible life into which poor little Uvalde falls is so exactly the one she persistently craved as a frustrated, married, mother-of-two.

Elaine Feinstein

Queen's Bench Division

When meat moves from steel to plastic

Jaka Foods Group Ltd v Secretary of State for Industry
Before Mr Justice Bristow

Where food which had been cooked and preserved in bulk in Denmark and, for selling to consumers in this country, was packed in smaller units and repacked in plastic containers with consequent loss in its nutritive value, the Secretary of State for England was not carried on by the purpose of preserving the food. Accordingly, the business of repacking the food was carried on did not qualify for a capital expenditure grant under section 1 of the Industry Act, 1972.

The Secretary of State made an application by Jaka Foods Group Ltd for an order of mandamus directed to the Secretary of State requiring him to accede to an application by Jaka Foods Group Ltd for an order of mandamus directed to the Secretary of State requiring him to accede to an application for a development grant towards expenditure incurred at its premises at Wilsey Way, Warrington.

Mr Patrick Medo, QC, and Mr Michael Leredo for Jaka; Mr Simon Brown for the minister.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the Secretary of State could make a grant towards approved capital expenditure incurred in providing a building as part of qualifying activities in a special development area.

By section 2(1) "qualifying premises" meant any premises in the time being wholly or mainly for the "qualifying activities". By section 2(2) "qualifying activities" meant activities described in the Standard Industrial Classification list headings" in Orders 12 to XX (inclusive) in the *Standard Industrial Classification*, which by section 2(3) included any activities carried out without regard to any ancillary or associated activities, such as sales and distribution.

Section 2(4) provides that "qualifying premises" as being premises where "qualifying activities" were carried on was narrower than premises where they were carried on, so that the question was whether the activities carried on for which the premises were for use, that is, wholly or mainly, were of the specified list headings. It was not used to determine whether the true construction of the *Standard Industrial Classification* they were included in any of the specified list headings.

The court was to approach the construction aspect of the matter with a view to ascertaining the true of the practical man instructed in the industry in the course of which the activity in question was carried on.

Jaka Foods Group Ltd v Secretary of State for Employment (19701 1 WLR 856).

Given that the premises were used for the purpose of preparing food, the court had an absolute discretion to make or not to make the grant, and his Lordship said that the question of making a grant of such a nature could not be challenged in the courts.

It would have been worth £137,000.

Jakala's contention was that the premises were for the time being to be used wholly or mainly for qualifying activities, namely, those described in Order 140, namely, "the slaughtering and dressing in the Standard Industrial Classification under heading 214, Bacon Curing, Meat and Fish Preserving, and other processing and preserving of meat and fish. Curing bacon and ham, canning and otherwise preserving meat and fish." The fact that the premises "establishments is excluded".

They said that what was done at the new premises was "what was done at the old premises, namely, preserving meat" and it was not production at a distributive establishment so as to be excluded.

Jakala said that the decision that the premises lay in deciding that what was to be done in the premises did not fit the 214 description "otherwise preserving meat".

The question was a matter of construction and so a matter of law. The minister had to look at the facts and decide whether the decision was challenged had to look at it, through the eyes of a practical man instructed in this industry.

In 1976 the slices which were to reach the consumer in their plastic packs via the supermarket were as before to be supermarket slices and not carcasses in Denmark, and so preserved in Denmark. But the first part of the journey from Denmark to the premises was in the form of the bulk in a steel pack. On arrival at Wallasey the steel pack was to be opened in circumstances designed to minimise the reduction in the shelf life of the meat in bulk and get it in slices into its ultimate plastic packs in which the level of preservation was maintained by transfer from bulk to slices would be as far as possible be retained, and in which the slices would be sold to the consumer for a further three-four weeks.

There was no evidence on how long the cooked meat in bulk in the premises was kept before it was wholesome, but it followed from the whole concept of the new operation and its advantages that the period of preservation of the meat in steel was higher than in slices in plastic.

So, in his Lordship's judgment, the fact that the meat in the whole picture, would sell to himself, as he opened its plastic packet of Jakala slices, thus the meat was cooked and preserved in Denmark, then taken to Wallasey, in order to reduce it into units in which it could be sold to the consumer, the level of preservation was inevitably to be reduced and its whole-

"One is always nearer by not keeping still." Thom Gunn's famous last line from his poem "On the Move" will serve well enough as epigraph for a quick run through the best of last year's verse.

Gunn himself issued a Selected Poems (Faber, £4.50 and £1.95), a judiciously chosen anthology, drawing on all his full-length books. No poet of his generation began more brilliantly:

*I thought I was so tough,
But gentled at your hands,
Cannot be quick enough
To fly to you and show
That when I go so
At your commands.*

The relationship between the bird and its master, worked out through four stanzas, with neat puns on the usages of hawking was typical of early Gunn, providing him with just the sort of exercise in intensity which his sophistication at that time demanded. The subject-matter of his verse was love and the importance (even occasionally the deification) of action. The poems were muscular and dramatic, sometimes over-contrived, but usually convincing in the way they worked through concerns to punch-line not necessarily concealed, as at the end of "The Beach Head", a fine poem

about a love affair conceived in
terms of military metaphor :
Or shall I wait and calculate my
chances
Consolidating that my inch-square
base,
—Myself a spy, killing your eyes
in-glances—
—Planting when you have least
supplies or clothing
A pincer move to crush you
in embrace,
And risk that your little liking
turn to loathing?

The later poems, which experi-
ment with syllabics, show an
increase in directness and some
slackening of wit. I would argue
that the *Selected Poems* show the
achievement of his two early
collections. Perhaps this is only
a way of saying that only Gunn's
work is a young man's work,
and he was 50 this year. The
Selected Poems is a volume
which anyone who cares about
modern English poetry will
want to have.

Ted Hughes has also pub-
lished a book this year—
Moortown (Faber, £5.25
and £1.95). The verse journal
which opens this collection
seems to me the most agreeable
thing that Ted Hughes has written
for some time. In it, he con-
centrates his powerful verbal
gift on sights and sounds
culled from his experience of
farming in the Devon coun-
tryside. The result is at best
a little too obvious, but it is
also modest and controlled,
adjectives which no critic in
his right mind would dream of
applying to this poet's most
famous (and I think over-
valued) book—*Waste Land*. The
natural world and the opportu-
nity which it offers the human
imagination for empathy has
always brought out the best in
Hughes, and I admire the fresh-
ness of these poems that close
observed and alertly patient.

Blue haze, bees hanging in air at
the hive-mouth,
Crawling in prone stupor of sun

On the hive-lip. *Snowdrops, Two buzzards, Still-wings, each Magnerised to the other, Float orbis, A Cattle rending worm. Lit, happy stillness.*

Hughes is a most uneven writer, but when he moves and celebrates something that goes beyond his own fancy he is good one. This book is heartening in that it suggests some of the reasons for his strength.

C. H. Sisson, hardly known at all when Gunn and Hughes were already attracting much critical attention, is old enough (just about) to be their father. Sisson's reputation has grown steadily throughout the decade so that he is now usually accorded the respect he deserves as a major poet by any standards. Sisson published original verse only in the magazines during 1979, but he did bring out his translation of *Some Tales of La Fontaine* (Carcaret, £1.50), a lightweight but delightful volume, and he has also published his and its command of an idiomatic "told" style which never sounds like translation.

Sisson has just completed a translation of the complete *Adivine Comedy*, due from Carcanet Press in 1981, and he will be divined with the keenest interest.

Kingsley Amis is underestimated as a poet. His *Collected Poems 1944-1979* (Rutshinson, £4.95) should demand to redress the balance. He is a poet of the first order, one of the few living poets who can make you laugh out loud. He is also adept at the kind of witty grotesque which has had a respectable place in English poetry since Graves and Norrmann. *Collected Poems* is a volume which contains few overt unedifying pieces—Amis is under-represented in most modern anthologies, including my own.

Faber Book of Sonnets where his admirable *A Nose on a Place* will certainly find a way if it ever turns to a revised edition. I quote the first four lines to illustrate his skill:

*See her come beaving down, a dily craft,
Gally her topsails budge, her side-
light light, her masts and rigging
Thee's jiggering in her rigging for
And, beauty's self, not name,
turned on her stern.*

The metaphor of the woman as ship is cleverly sustained, with just as much brilliance as you find in every line of your finest, better than Gunga-
fibre, come to bending current
twists and turns of speech to
the shape of his verse. He is a
literary poet with a sharp ear
for slang; the combination
makes for a readable and enter-
taining idiosyncrasy.

Peter Redgrove, I imagine,
is the sort of writer this
would attract. His *The
Weddings at Nether Powers
and Other New Poems* (Roun-
ledge, £2.95) contains all
manner of vividly incantatory
stuff, no trace of a sense of
humour, and a meticulous at-
tention to his own genius which
would be embarrassing did not
Redgrove, every once in a
while, come up with an image
which no one else could have
thought of. The centipede
like scuffling of toes, for in-
stance, which the previous
reviewer compared
him to an abandoned earth-
demon, I believe, and the
figure suits these verses too,
because often they sound like
the kind of thing a tree or a
stone or a tree trunk or a
trunk or stones were blessed
and cursed with a gift of
speech. I could do with less
abandon, and when this poet
cares to speak like a human
being, he is doubtless to af-
ford considerable. His sincerity
is never in doubt.

Robert Nye

Crime

Enough!
By Donald E. Westlake
(Gollancz, £4.95)

The Attending Physician
By R. B. Dominic
(Macmillan, £4.95)

The Murder of Miranda
By Margaret Millar
(Hodder & Stoughton, £4.95)

To hand: three American crime-humours. And an interesting trio they make, each conspicuously different, all marked with at least one common characteristic, a quality on the whole not to be found in their British equivalents. I encapsulate it as "sharpness".

I suppose the most obvious example is the wisecrack, of which Westlake's *Enough!* is happily full, both in the dialogue of this well worked-out story of an obscure film critic trying to get rid of a body and in the narration. "Like a Flat Earther, she" with an "astrophysicist", a sharp simile I wish I'd used myself (Watch these columns). The attractive knowledge of the fun here is beautifully enhanced by the cinematic stream of adroit movie references. Surefire entertainment.

Something more than entertainment is to be found in R. B.

Elaine Feinstein

frustrated, married, mother of two.

Thatcher, banker-sleuth. And it's written every bit as crisply. Somehow here we can see more than many that quality of the language. It's so good. Oddly, however, the very brightness of the humour dulls the considerable punch of the book's all-out (another American asset) attack on medical men's greed. I'm not sure whether I'm disappointed by that or pleased not to have got that over my head. A more generalized satire, and thus perhaps a more effective one, runs through *And through Margaret Miller's *The Murder of Miranda**, set in an exclusive California beach club, hinting of a departure for Mrs. Miller's her teasing, over-the-satirizing on every page with digs, sharp or sly. You read, giggle and gurgie with delight. But I suspect if you were a well-off Californian you would be making New Year resolutions to hate that book. And I'm cursing yourself for breeding taste. Crime-humour with a sting.

Going It Alone, by Michael Innes (Collanz, £4.50). Classic veteran in fine form. More a country-house whupstap than a whodunit, with deliciously dissonant language (eg for "stocking-made" read "filmy integument").

Points and Lines, by Seicho Matsumoto (John M. Corgill, £6.95). Interesting, if limp, million-selling Japanese murder story translated by Makiko Yamamoto and Paul C. Blum. There you can rely on trains running to the minute and Freeman Wills Crofts rides again.

Tomorrow's Treason, by Palma (H. K. Lewis, £5.50). Espionage and romance. Love can be liars too. A swinging story set in uppermost American echelons and among diplomats in Norway.

of preservation, the activity in England was not carried on for the purposes of the building in which the activity was carried on did not qualify for a capital expenditure grant and section 1 of the Income Tax Act 1972.

His Lordship refused an application by Jeka Foods Grouping Ltd for an order of mandamus requiring him to reconsider his decision refusing the applicant's application for a development grant towards premises incurred at its premises at Wallasey, Wirral.

Mr Patrick Mead, QC, and Mr Michael Cerego, for Jeka Foods, submitted for the minister.

HIS LORDSHIP said that by section 1 the minister could make a grant towards approved capital expenditure incurred by a person in building as part of "qualifying premises" in a special development area.

Section 2(1) "qualifying premises" meant premises used for the time being wholly or mainly for qualifying activities.

By section 2(2) "qualifying activities" meant activities described in any of the "minimum list headings" in Orders 1 to 3K of the Standard Classification, which by section 2(3)(c) was to be used without regard to any ancillary or related activities, such as sales and distribution.

Whether premises were "qualifying premises" as being premises where qualifying activities were carried on was a matter of mixed fact and law depending on what were the activities carried on and whether they were carried on at the time being wholly or mainly used, and whether on the true construction of the *Standard Classification* headings, such as those described in any of the specified list headings.

The court was to approach the question in respect of the manner of the practical man instructed in which the activity in the course of which the activity in question was carried on: *Fisher-Bendix Ltd v Secretary of State for Employment* (1971) 1 WLR 856.

Given that the premises were qualifying premises the minister had an absolute discretion to make a grant towards the expenditure. His decision if made in good faith

2. Other processing and preserving of meat and fish. Curing, bacon and other preserving meat. . . . Production at distributive establishments is excluded".

They said that what was done at the time was what was described under 214.2 as "otherwise preserving meat" and "it was not production at distributive establishments to be excluded".

Jaka said that the minister was wrong in law in deciding that what was to be done in this case was to exclude the description "otherwise preserving" meat.

The question was so matter of consideration and a number of the members had to look at it, and the court when his decision was challenged had to look at it, through the eyes of the normal man instructed in the industry.

After 1976 the slices which were to reach the consumer in their plastic packs were to be cut from meat as cooked and canned in Denmark. But the first part of the meat, the cooked meat, the consumer was to take place in bulk in a steel pack. On arrival at Wallasey the steel pack was to be opened and the plastic packs in which the level of preservation maximized during the transfer from bulk to slices would be made possible by the use of and in which slices would remain wholesome for a further three-four weeks.

There was no evidence on how long the cooked meat in bulk in the steel container would remain wholesome, but it followed from the general concept of the new operation and the new equipment the quality of preservation in bulk in steel was higher than in slices in plastic.

Mr. Lordens's judgment, the practical man, looking at the whole picture, would say to himself, as he opened his plastic packs, that the meat and fish stuff was cooked and preserved in Denmark; that when it reached Wallasey, in order to reduce it into slices, it was put into plastic to send to the consumer, it's Danish

Forewarned is forearmed

This book is disturbing. The author concludes:

Kidnapping works. It works for criminals, except when the process is efficient and much is wasted. The official number of people kidnapped in Italy in recent years is 324. One hundred of these is a total of \$88,000,000 to come home alive. It works for terrorists, except where governments are too stupid to pay the ransom. It works for guerrillas, except where 15-17 guerrilla movements throughout the world kidnapped nearly 100,000 people. The American companies paid \$77,000,000 for a third of them. It brought them the release of 267 political prisoners.

Most of the book is devoted to a comparison of kidnapping in Europe and America. Examination of the reaction of victims and governments, and discussion of the relationship between kidnappers and kidnappings, is included. The author is a native, sufficiently detailed to carry conviction, but brisk and unemotional. Many readers will be astonished by the extent

of kidnapping and its apparent success. Some will wonder uneasily whether the book will unimentionally commend kidnapping as a profitable crime.

I don't think there is cause for alarm. Kidnapping, as the author rightly comments, is a crime which has no economic sources and communications are necessary, and even if these are satisfactory, the ground conditions must be right. A hostile public inevitably makes kidnapping especially inauspicious. So-called 'blackmail' kidnapping is for profit; in sharp contrast kidnapping for political reasons is proclaimed to the world.

There is no blueprint for dealing with either. Happily, in Great Britain either would certainly arouse strong public indignation, or the political, social and economic conditions in any society which determine the likelihood of kidnapping as well as other terrorist activity, whether for political or economic ends, would largely determine the success or failure in dealing with it. It says much for the inherent stability of British society that the book does not mention any of the four intentional kidnappings in the post-war period, and that it has not emerged as a major problem. This is in sharp contrast to the situation in Italy

and Latin America, where it is both frequent and profitable.

The book adduces no significant evidence of liaison and cooperation between terrorist organizations. Although some countries are sympathetic to the cause, the book is not concerned with it. In practice it is always a domestic issue. Counter measures thought repressive in one country are accepted without question in others. By contrast, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which is harshly described as Draconian by Roy Jenkins, in most European and Latin countries it would be regarded as laughably inept. In fact, it is probably appropriate to the circumstances of the overt activities in support of terrorism without making political martyrs. It is in this area in which the Government has shown restraint and done well, rather than with its forerunners, decisions in which it has had little to do. In the unlikely and unhappy event that kidnapping here increased dramatically this book would become required reading for all forerunners of "Kidnapping and Ransom" by Dr Richard Chatterback, both suggest that to be forewarned is not necessarily to be forearmed, but might nevertheless be prudent.

Robert Mark

Quick guide

A Country Calendar and other writings, by Flora Thompson. Selected and edited by Margaret Lane. (Oxford, £6.95). There is nothing about or by Flora Thompson that is not richly rewarding, and to Margaret Lane's enthusiasm and research we owe the posthumous publication of *Still in the South*, a magnificent portrait of the Oxfordshire village, Juniper Hill, in the 1880's, and a first biographical essay, originally published in 1976, now extended and included in this wholly delightful *A Country Calendar* and other writings. The memoir now tells us much more about Flora Thompson's incompatible marriage and her three years working in the post office at Oxford (two years in the post office as a typist, and one year lodged with a murderer), and gives some personal reminiscences of her by her contemporaries. Miss Lane further adds the tantalizing news that in

H. R. F. Keating

Texas University Library there is an unpublished autobiography. What Miss Keating does here is to select, with sensitive imagination, from the contributions Flora Thompson made to *The Catholic Fireside* and arrange these in a monthly journal. The result is one of the best informed and observed nature-though the year's journals, written with the loving precision one has come to expect from this author. Also included is the historical sketch of *Elizabeth Gaskell*, an account of life in *Gearysbot* in the style of *Little Floss*—far better than *Still Rides the Stream*. Altogether this volume is a must for Flora Thompson devotees and a superb introduction to the uninitiated.

In the *TLS* to-morrow: Stuart Hampshire on G. E. Moore and the Apostles; A. J. P. Taylor on George F. Kennan; Edward Norman on Church and State. In the *Observer* next week there will be reviews of new books about the state of the English language, Stonehenge and other prehistoric stone circles, and historical fiction.

company which for many years had carried on the business of drying the salmon and serving it in meat in vacuum sealed plastic "pouches", the transparent packs of bacon and ham familiar to us elsewhere. The company was important for the present which company in Denmark.

In 1976 Jala decided to cease importing the plastic pouches and to build a plant in Wallasey, where cooked meat imported from Denmark in large sealed blocks, each containing one large block of meat, was removed from the cans and sliced, and the slices packed into the vacuum sealed plastic pouches.

Thereafter the pouches containing the slices left Wallasey on their way further down the line to the consumer. The virtue of this new set-up was that cooked meat once in plastic pouches remained wholesome and edible for up to three months, thus saving the long journey time from Denmark was eliminated the product would have a much longer life than previously.


In 1977 Jala applied for a grant in respect of their capital expenditure on the new building.

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Ronald Butt

The strange case of Labour's protected infiltrators

With the moderates appearing to have increasingly little to say that carries conviction there is a vacuum in the centre of Labour thinking

It is not difficult to understand why Fleet Street has been fascinated by the story of the attempt by the Militant tendency to take over the Labour Party. It is a tale with a concrete plot and a clear ending, and it is an action story, and above all it has documents which can be discovered and revealed, and whose attempted suppression is itself news.

Yet in essence it is not a new story. Far from it. Sir Harold Wilson, when he was Prime Minister, warned the Labour conference in 1975 of extremist infiltration of the constituency organizations and at successive annual Labour conferences since then, the infiltration of the "Trotskyists" has been a cause for concern.

There has also been a series of attempts to oust moderate MPs in which the Militant tendency has been heavily involved. This year a climax was reached when the extremists secured their conference victory for the compulsory reselection of Labour MPs, as well as for giving authority over the Labour manifesto to the left-wing National Executive Committee, instead of the parliamentary leadership.

The emergence of material from old reports on Militant infiltration has usefully put flesh on the bones of an old story, thanks to the request of Mr. Neville Sandelson, himself a beleaguered Labour moderate MP, that they should be published, and similar insistence by Lord Underhill, who was Labour's National Agent at the time, and who is familiar with the evidence. The NEC having refused, Lord Underhill has been going it alone.

Yet the danger is that the focus of press attention on the Militant tendency will distract attention from the real question: why and how have the Trotskyist infiltrators been protected for so long by the NEC? The short answer is, of course, that the NEC itself is now in the hands of a left-wing majority (though not all of a Trotskyist variety) as a result of the left's success in recent years in taking control of a number of important unions and of constituency parties, and thus dominating

the party conference which elects the NEC.

In this way, a situation has been created in sharp contrast to that of the 1950s, when a moderate NEC and moderate unions were the bulwark of a moderate parliamentary party.

This answer, however, does not explain what lies beneath the surface facts. Indeed, this is not easily explicable because here there are no documents to be revealed and "facts" are hard to come by. There is only a mass of circumstantial evidence provided by the actions and statements by individuals. Those who operate according to a concrete strategy are the least likely to risk their thoughts on paper; others, including those who are most useful to the clear-sighted because they are bridge-builders, probably have no completely thought-out place of destination.

What they do have is a response to a prevailing climate in the party and a general sense of direction. Some take it because they feel it will lead to the political power in the future; others because they are responding for one reason or another to the same principle as that which animated their predecessors in the 1930s—the conviction (to borrow the words of Mr. A. J. P. Taylor in his account of the Labour Party in this period) that there are "no enemies on the left".

This is the dominant conviction on the NEC today. There are some who are for all practical purposes communists, who are familiar with the evidence, as saying that they belong to any party of that name; others are Marxist in broad sentiment, and while they profess to believe that the government of the Soviet Union is a deforma-



Lord Underhill going it alone

tion of their creed, they would recoil with dismay if asked to agree that the replacement of that system would be beneficial to those who have to live under Russian communism.

In the House of Commons this week, despite Afghanistan, we had Mr. Frank Ailsworth, a member of the NEC, telling the Prime Minister that we should take a softer line towards Russia over defence. No enemies on the left, indeed!

The success of the left arises in part from the failure since 1964 of the kind of social democracy attempted by Sir Harold Wilson and the Callaghan to deliver reasonable prosperity, or to control the mixed economy, culminating in the collapse of the attempt to deal with the unions over wages and inflation last winter.

With the Labour moderates appearing to have increasingly little to say that carries conviction, there is a vacuum in the centre of Labour thinking, just as there was in the 1930s after Ramsay MacDonald, finding that he could not manage the economy on Labour terms, joined the National Government, taking countless Labour voters, though very few party members, with him.

What followed was the period of the Popular Front mentality: of the intellectual ideas of Laski and Strachey (both virtually communists). From this Labour was only rescued when the war gave the moderate leaders a share of responsibility and office, which won them their 1945 landslide.

We are now back with the "popular front" or united left mentality again, and it is this time the left made by the clearer-sighted hard-line Marxists of the Militant tendency that should concern us more than the details of the militants' plotting.

What matters is the alliance of the old variety left (two used to be called fellow-travellers) with clever bridge-builders like Mr. Eric Heffer, and with Mr. Wedgwood Benn (who though not a Marxist himself, sprang to defend the appointment of the Trotskyist Mr. Andy Bevan as Labour's National Youth Officer). (His argument was that Marxism was part of Labour's intellectual heritage—as though there were no distinction between a trans-historical humanism and this sort of calculated infiltration by undiluted Marxists.)

All these have sought to protect the Militant tendency in its clever device of avoiding infringement of party rules against separate organizations

by basing its own arrangements on the readership and circulation structure of its newspaper. Why has there been no reaction to the Militant's control of Labour's Young Socialists? Why is information about Militant activities suppressed?

It is not that the Militant tendency on its own could achieve much. It is questionable whether the Trotsky could out any Labour MPs on their own; they are certainly not strong enough to substitute their own replacements for the ousted Trotskyists. They remain deeply divided into factions, as they have been since the end of the war, between those who opt for infiltration ("entryism"), those who prefer extra-parliamentary and on-the-street activities, and those who think in terms of their own candidates and organization. The Trotskyists do not really understand power, but they are useful to those who do.

They can, for instance, recruit young people to their cause when the more disciplined hard-left cannot, and they can employ the recruits on disruptive action that the traditional left can then exploit. They can act as a kind of commando outfit when an attack is to be launched on a moderate Labour MP. Not least, they can distract attention from the old hard-left which secured the united left dominance of the party in the years before 1970, when the parliamentary leadership was too busy with office to notice.

Distracting attention is, indeed, what the revelations about the Trotskyists are doing now. The Militant is taking the old hard-left which remains unchanged and its atavistic sympathies unprobed. In a way, one can understand why the hard-left escapes so easily. They do not, after all, have to wage war to get control of the Labour Party.

By their manipulation of a variety of elements at a time of deep national and party division, they are on the brink of control, already, and their dominance remains effectively unchallenged. What, in these circumstances, are the moderates to do? I shall discuss some of their options next week.

Bernard Levin

A gold for walking out of the Games

The response from both Nato and the EEC to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan makes me almost despair of freedom itself. Of course, no serious observer of the international scene would expect the French to behave in any way other than the most dishonourable that the situation permits, but the speech of M. François-Poncet in which he argued that as America did not normally supply butter to the Soviet Union the EEC would not be undermining the American position by keeping its own sales of surplus butter, went even further than expectation. But the rest of the EEC, with the exception of Britain, behaved little better. It is clear that the discussion was largely based on the premise that the invasion was nothing to do with Europe, and that if the United States wanted to do something about it, Europe had no higher duty than to refrain from actively hindering her efforts.

Elsewhere in Brussels, the Nato ministers likewise confined themselves to the view that some appropriate words would be a sufficient response to the aggression, and that to accompany the words by any kind of decision would be inappropriate. Much credit goes to Britain's representatives at the two meetings—Mr Douglas Hurd at the EEC and Sir Ian Gilmour at Nato—for their forthright and strenuous efforts to achieve unity and action, as indeed it goes to Mr. James Callaghan for his support for the speed and strength of their reaction to the invasion, and the persistence with which they are fighting to persuade the more raven, visionless and treacherous of our allies that it is our crisis just as much as America's and possibly more so.

Perhaps they will fail in that endeavour. But as I said yesterday, there is one useful action the West can take, and which, even given the general unwillingness to take more positive steps, might still be agreed upon. It is to ensure that the 1980 Olympics do not take place in Moscow if they take place at all. None of the other measures would in any case bring home to the same way to the Soviet people as a whole the fact that their leaders have led them into dangerous paths for no good reason, and have been lying about it ever since. If the Soviet people go hungry because of a shortage of wheat grain, it will not be the first time they have gone hungry, and in any case they are unlikely to connect the cause with the effect. The same is true, *mutatis mutandis*, of any embargo on technology, and generally of almost all the measures that have been acted upon, proposed or considered.

The cancellation of the Olympics, however, is another matter. By now, it is safe to say, every inhabitant of every part of the Soviet Union, apart from infants too young to understand, knows that the Olympics is to take place in their country, that athletes from virtually every country in the world will be taking part, and that Soviet competitors have a very good chance of carrying off many of the medals. It would be quite impossible for the Soviet leaders to conceal from their people the fact that the Olympics have been cancelled, and if the countries of Nato and the EEC pulled out, together with say, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Spain, Austria and a few of the nations of Latin America and the Middle East, the Soviet Union would be virtually

bound to abandon the games entirely. Now, why should we take such action, how can we do so, and what good would it do? My own feeling is that the 1980 Olympics have never been awarded to the Soviet Union in the first place. Indeed, if the International Olympic Committee bothered to apply its own rules, the Soviet Union could not have been chosen for the games, as Soviet Olympic athletes, almost if not entirely without exception, professionals. (But the International Olympic Committee doesn't seem very interested in the rules; Mr. Trudeau broke them by excluding the Taiwan team from the Montreal Games, and was allowed to get away with it.)

It is not, however, necessary to rely on the breach of such rules to make the case for refusing the games to the Soviet Union. The hideous and exactly parallel case of the Berlin Olympics of 1936 should have been sufficient warning for the world; the only instance in the world's history of a tyranny that compared in evil to the Soviet one was then allowed to stage a festival devoted to innocence, peace, individual achievement and friendly rivalry, and to turn it into a huge propaganda advertisement on behalf of Nazism. As a matter of fact, on that occasion there was an extreme, and games were awarded to Berlin in the early summer of 1932, before Hitler had even come into power, let alone before the full horrors of Nazism were apparent. But when the 1980 Olympics were given to Moscow, the full horror of Soviet Communism had been known, in the uttermost depths of its evil, for much more than a human generation; the concentration camps, the tyranny pervading every aspect of life, the

persecution of dissidents and of those who wish to emigrate, the cruelty, the imperialist oppression beyond the Soviet borders, the censorship of every published word—all these were known in the greatest possible detail, and so, for that matter, was the officially encouraged anti-Semitism, in case it is necessary to make the parallel even closer.

And it has just been announced in Moscow that no western newspapers or magazines will be allowed into the Soviet Union during the games; their present policy, of barring all press material from abroad other than approved communist publications (a breach, incidentally, of the Helsinki Agreement) will be maintained. Visitors from abroad will therefore be unable to read their own press; it is worth remarking that not even Hitler went as far as that in the Berlin Games.

All this goes for nothing; the Soviet Union wanted the Games for prestige and propaganda, and got them. It was, in the circumstances, hardly matter for surprise when, in the early summer of 1979, the 1980 Olympic mascot (a cuddly little bear) was being made by slave labour in Soviet concentration camps, and even less surprising that the International Olympic Committee took no action even then.

Now, frankly enough in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, they have no fresh ground for taking action, because the invasion by the Olympic mascot of one of its neighbours is not something prohibited by the rules of the games. If the games are to be called off, as a protest against the invasion, the

demonstrating that such aggression must be tangibly, and not just verbally, rebuked, it must be by the action of individual competing nations and of individual athletes.

The Olympic nations of the world have varying arrangements for organizing their athletes' participation. In Britain the government has no power to forbid British athletes to take part (short of such unthinkable action as confiscating their passports), but the British Olympic Committee, if its members were so minded and it were part of an international joint action, could and should call off British participation. At present they are still stonewalling their idiotic mantra "Politics must be kept out of sports" like a witch-doctor casting spells, but it is not entirely impossible that they might acquire a backbone or two in the coming months and join in a general move.

Of course, leadership will have to come from the United States, but at the moment leadership is coming from the United States. Though the games are still a good many months off, time is not on our side; the nearer we get to the Olympics, the more the pressure to let it go on, and the weaker the case of sense of outrage at the Soviet invasion. So we must hurry if it is to be done. It should be done; it can be done; now, what good would it do if it were done? First, of course, it would deprive the Soviet Union of a golden hour of propaganda. Second, it would be a token—only that, true, but an important one—of the world's anger at Brezhnev's Hitlerian aggression and of its determination to make that anger felt. But the third reason is the most important, indeed the overwhelmingly important, one.

I have long been of the opinion, and as long proclaimed my belief, that the Soviet people are not fools. Millions of them know that they are unfree; that they are poor; that their rulers live well out of their suffering; many even know that there is a world elsewhere. Very few of them are brave enough to do or even say anything about this knowledge, by which I intend no criticism of their silence, for only a hero may call on another man to be heroic. But if their leaders had to admit that the Olympic Games, of which the Soviet people have been hearing day in and day out for four full years, are being cancelled, I do not believe that any amount of telling of any number of lies would serve to stop millions of the Soviet people—tens of millions this time—from taking the first silent, docile step, inside their hearts and minds, towards the full knowledge of the nature of the system they live and suffer under. I believe that for many it would be the last invisible step, and that for these the next one would be in the open. But that is not necessary; if a nation has begun to revolt in its heart then the next step against which the heart has turned is as a house built upon sand.

If that is so, then the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan could be the most disastrous step our enemies have taken for decades. But only, as I said yesterday, if the West unites, remains united, and does the right thing to hand; much action has already been taken; now let us vow that this crowning action shall be taken, too, in full unity of purpose and full knowledge of what it could mean.

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The collapse of America's 'generation of peace'

Patrick Brogan on the failure of a decade of American foreign policy

United Nations Ambassador, Mr Andrew Young, thought the Cubans were a stabilizing influence on Africa, and the Americans did nothing to stop the communication of Ethiopia, Aden and Afghanistan.

The continuing expansion of the Soviet arsenal continued. In Ethiopia, the Russians airlifted an entire armoured division over a range of impassable mountains, putting it down in the desert in the rear of the Somalis, who were thus defeated. Mr Carter cancelled the B-1 bomber.

The Americans were not the only ones who reversed the old aphorism, and watched what the Russians said, not what they did. In the 1960s, after all, Britain had a minister for disarmament.

The time has now come, in Washington's view, for the European allies and Japan to realize that their vital interests are involved in the Middle East crisis—and because of the danger, particularly Japan's on Middle East oil, the world vital is for once accurate. For the first time, America has suggested that Japan should look to its own defence, and the Europeans are being told that American power may no longer be enough to protect them. The 1980s are going to be exceedingly dangerous, and Europe may have to build a real defence. Whether it will do so depends in large part on the consistency of American leadership. Mr Carter's dithering over the neutron bomb was a bad omen.

Mr Nixon, Mr Ford and Mr Kissinger bear a heavy responsibility for advocating the doctrine that negotiating skill and linkage would keep the Russians in order and

that protestations of America's capability second to none were enough to ensure continued unity with the Soviet Union. Mr Nixon abolished the draft.

Then came Mr Jimmy Carter. His diplomacy over three years had been a history of disasters, with the one glowing exception of the Camp David treaty. On that occasion President Sadat, rightly foreseeing the coming storm, and recognizing that his only hope was an American alliance, set his quarrel with Israel. Mr Carter persuaded Israel to agree.

Shortly after taking office, Mr Carter thought that the Russians might be willing to reduce their armaments substantially if he asked nicely, he did, and they weren't. Then he invited them to take part in solving the Middle East problems. They were delighted at the idea, which was vetoed by Egyptians and Israelis alike. They engineered communist coups in Aden and Afghanistan. The Seychelles went early in 1977.

President Carter decided that human rights were the most important thing for American foreign policy, and therefore set about offending a number of minor dictatorships, while praising important ones. He praised the Shah of Iran effusively (for which the Iranians have not forgiven him). But the following summer, 1978, when it became apparent that the Shah's days were numbered, could not decide whether to support him to the limit or to ditch him, finding some tough-minded general to replace him.

Iran is the greatest defeat for American foreign policy since the fall of Saigon in 1975

As a result, of course, the Shah was overthrown and replaced by the implacable Ayatollah. Mr Carter tried to ingratiate himself with the new regime by selling refined oil products and food, and by expressing willingness to pursue relations at any level the Ayatollah wanted.

The revolution in Iran is clearly the greatest defeat for American foreign policy since the fall of Saigon in 1975. Indeed, its consequences may be much more serious. It may take a war to save the Middle East from communism, which is a prospect grim enough to daunt anyone. We will see soon enough whether President Carter will face that prospect or whether the American people will follow him.

What was to be a "generation of peace" at the beginning of the decade had narrowed down to Salt 2 by the end of it. The argument in Salt's favour is that, if it is kept, it will put a limit on nuclear spending and preserve some sort of parity between the two superpowers. If it fails, then Russia might soon have a clear superiority over America in strategic as well as conventional weapons.

The argument against it is that it enshrines American inferiority and that a nation that behaves as Russia has, done across the world in the past few years cannot be trusted to a matter so important as strategic arms. Mr Carter has abandoned Salt 2. The last surviving fragment of détente.

The crisis in the Middle East is just beginning, and Mr Carter will lay out a "Carter doctrine" to deal with it. "Thus far and no farther," he will say and then propose concrete measures to make the warning credible. Meanwhile, President Tito, the Yugoslav, Ljubljana, and the remnants of America's reaction to the invasion of Afghanistan will certainly be taken into account by the Russians as they look at the Balkans.

In 1976, Mr Carter said "I don't believe that our security would be directly threatened if the Soviet Union went into Yugoslavia".

ARTS DIARY

Mr West tries his hand at management

The actor-manager has become an almost extinct creature in these days of theatre companies run by directors, but the idea of combining performances with the artistic direction of the Old Vic does not worry Timothy West.

"The stage does not seem to be a bad place to run a company from," says Mr West, "on the pulse of what the audience and the company feel".

He thought performers were getting tired of "the hired actor syndrome" and wanted a bit more say in the world in which they worked. He also wanted to direct more himself but had found it difficult on a freelance basis. "After three years of thinking I'm something of a director, I have only one one-lunchtime play and a couple of recitals".

So he is deserting television and bending his energies to the difficult task of succeeding Toby Robertson at the Old Vic. Some plans have already been dropped: there will now be no any Old Vic productions until the end of the summer,

partly due to finance and partly to ensure that the rehearsal of the company does not go off "at half steam".

The eventual programme will involve three acting companies, performing in London, on tour in Britain and on a big series of foreign tours. Among the plays will be *Macbeth*, with Peter O'Toole, and a production of *Trelawney of the Wells*, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Old Vic in its present form.

In the meantime Mr West has started rehearsals for what is virtually a one-man show, *Beecham*, which opens at the Apollo on January 29. Although physically unlike the conductor, he is already beginning to look the part, and the square jaw of the television Churchill is disappearing behind a Beecham garb.

Musicians and the blacking rule

Members of the Musicians' Union who are unhappy about the policy which prevents non-union conductors from also playing with chamber orchestras, will have a chance to air their views at a special meeting next month.

Christopher Hogwood and

George Malcolm are among the non-union members who have regularly directed chamber orchestras from the keyboard but are now being blacked from playing alongside union members.

There have been protests about the policy, and also suggestions that it was causing members to lose concert and recording work, and so the union's Central London branch is holding a consultative meeting about the subject on February 14.

The branch secretary Bernard Parris said: "We have got to respond to the comments of members and others. There are obviously several points of view: some members have been concerned that it could affect them; others take the view that the rules should be more strongly enforced."

If the meeting makes any recommendation for a change of rule or policy, he said this would go to a regular branch meeting and could then go to national level for consideration.

Censored plays in the vaults

It has always seemed a sad loss when a completed television play is banned. Producers

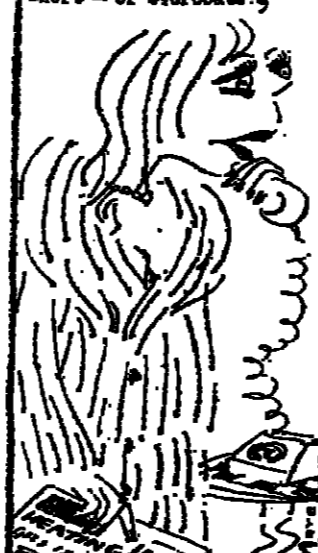
recognized as fine drama go unseen because they are deemed unsuitable for family audiences.

However many such programmes are finding a home where they will be available for viewing, at least on a limited basis. The National Film Archive is fast expanding its television collection and among its recent acquisitions are such banned plays as *Brimstone and Treacle*, *Censored Scenes from King Kong*, *Scum and Bang* and *Up Your Brightest Colours—The Life and Death of Michael Collins*.

While special clearance would still be needed for theatrical showings, most of the plays can be seen by researchers and other interested individuals.

A delegation of senior theatre officials from China is spending three weeks in Britain, viewing everything from *Evita* to *Amadeus*. However, for fear of embarrassment, the British Council has dropped one visit from their original itinerary: a performance of Richard III at the Roundhouse by the Russian company, which came from the USSR, Afghanistan strikes again.

"Are we wearing long or short—or overcoats?"



Alas for Christmas dreams: Andrew Paddie, the Labour Party's spokesman, believes I was misleading in my report about the Labour plans for the arts. "Drawing of a future cornucopia". He wants to an-

phorized that these were simply ideas under consideration and do not, in any way, represent promises. Exit cornucopia, stage left.

Music for a leaning tower

Richard Rodney Bennett is in New York working "all out" to finish his new ballet score, MacMillan's new ballet *Isadora*. Although the full-length work will not be seen at Covent Garden until April next year, MacMillan needs the music a year earlier, so he has begun the detailed choreography.

Once Isadora is complete, the composer will be turning his hand to a work for harp and strings which will receive its premiere in a Helle village church in Norfolk.

The choice of Burnham Market as the venue was made by a plea from an old friend of his, Lady Margaret Douglas-Ross, who runs a concert series in the village. She wanted the concerts in 1975, to raise money for the church restoration fund, and has combined young performers with the presentation of a new work each year.

"The tower of the church was falling down because of dry rot," she said, but the success of the concerts enabled them to carry out repairs.

All change for Telford & Co

When *Can You Hear Me at the Back?* finishes at the Piccadilly Theatre next month, Peter Barkworth and Hannah Gordon have a common intention: they want a break—both have been working solidly since they married. The television series *Telford & Change* almost two years ago.

For Hannah Gordon, it will be an opportunity to look for something other than the naturalistic drama she has been doing recently. She certainly would not mind some film work: she developed a taste for it after a small part in the 1976 film *The Elephant Man*, which is being made in London. While Peter Barkworth wants to do more television, and would also not say no to film work, he will be devoting much

more time to writing. His first book *About Acting*, is due out in April, and he is working on another, provisionally entitled *An Actor's Diary*.

"I started writing diaries seriously in 1968; I wanted to record what it was like to be an actor," he said. "I write every morning while I'm having breakfast."

He was not sure how the book would work out. "I don't even know if it is interesting. I have written millions of words and I need a lot of time to read it and sift it." However, he was clear that the book would not be at all glamorous. "It will emphasize the hard work and the depressions actors go through."

After the closure of the West End last week of the play *Evita*, Alan Bennett is crossing the river to the National Theatre. He last performed with the company in two memorable productions at the Old Vic—*Shogun*, this time he will be appearing in a *Rattigan* double-bill, *The Browning Version* and *Barterhouse*.

Marion Huchesby

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THE IDEA OF A CENTRE PARTY

The British accept the arguments for a centre party but they are not yet ready actually to have one. That would seem to be the conclusion that should be drawn from the survey done by ORC for *The Times*. We commissioned the survey following Mr Roy Jenkins' Dimsdaley lecture, to examine the support for some of the propositions which were advanced or implied in his speech. The main arguments which he employed are accepted by substantial or very large majorities in the poll.

Although a small majority of Conservatives still believe that our present political system is working properly, both Labour and Liberal supporters believe that it is no longer working properly, by majorities of two to one. The overall majority for the view that the Labour Party is moving too far to the left is almost three to one, and almost half of Labour supporters themselves take that view. A smaller majority consider that the Conservative Party is moving too far to the right; that includes twenty-one per cent of Conservative supporters. Seventy-five per cent of those questioned agree with the proposition that the trade unions have too much power over the Labour Party and only seventeen per cent disagree. Seventy-two per cent would like a proportional reform of the electoral system and only thirteen per cent are opposed. There is indeed a substantial majority for electoral reform among supporters of all three parties.

These figures show conclusively that the arguments which Mr Jenkins used are regarded as valid by large majorities of the British people. When it comes to putting these arguments to any political effect, attitudes are sympathetic but much less clear. Less than a third are opposed to the idea of the formation of a centre party as such. Forty-two per cent of the electorate say that they would support the Liberals at a General Election if they thought they had a reasonable chance of winning. This is a statistic found before in opinion polling but the effect of a coalition of the centre would be to strengthen the belief that the Liberals could win. The Liberals have a problem not of sympathy but of credibility.

When one looks at the prospects for a centre party in a hypothetical election, it does not appear that a Lib-Lab coalition would be able to gain an immediate majority. On the other hand the figures do suggest that a Lib-Lab coalition might expect to hold the balance in a hung parliament. The advocates of a centre party could also take comfort from the fact that in this hypothetical election they come quite close to the Conservative and Labour parties. Labour 31 per cent, Conservative 29, centre party 23 would not be a satisfactory finishing position—though it is a higher percentage than the Liberal Party has in fact gained since the 1920s—but it would not be a bad starting position in an election campaign.

The Labour Party can also take comfort from this poll. A centre party, even if constructed from the right wing of the Labour Party, appears to draw almost as much support from the Conservative as from the Labour, and would at present leave Labour as just the largest party. The Labour Party can also be gratified that the public are strongly opposed to the idea of the Labour Party splitting. Even among Conservatives there is a majority against; only fourteen per cent of Labour voters think that a split would be a good thing. That does not mean that a split might not happen, but it does indicate the reluctance with which Labour voters would support it. No one wants the Labour Party to split, and no split will happen unless the left attempt to assert a hegemony over the moderates.

It is very likely that Britain is due for another Liberal revival. The figures of Liberal support in the opinion polls are already edging upwards; the political climate seems at least as favourable to the Liberals as it did in January, 1971, six months into the last Conservative government. A major Liberal revival followed, as it had at the time of Torrington and Orpington, the possibility, and indeed desirability, of a centre party taking part in that revival would seem to turn on future developments in the two major parties. If the Labour Party, under a new leader, moved back towards the main stream of British politics, the

threat of a split in the Labour Party could be eliminated. If the Labour Party continue to move to the left, they will be stretching the elastic near to or beyond its breaking point.

For the Conservative Party there is no substitute for success in government. If the Conservative Government are even reasonably successful in reducing inflation and in their general handling of the economy, Mrs Thatcher will win and will deserve to win the next General Election. From the national point of view that is highly desirable. The public view that the Conservative Party is too far to the right is still much weaker than the view that the Labour Party is too far to the left, yet economic failure would undoubtedly turn voters away from the Conservatives. If the Labour Party go further left, and Conservative economic policy fails, a centre alternative becomes a necessity, and also becomes possible. But neither of those two conditions yet exists.

There are however two points which have emerged from this poll to which all politicians ought to give serious and urgent consideration. They are two points on which public opinion shows over seventy per cent agreement. One is the issue of proportional representation, supported by a majority of more than five to one; the other is the issue of trade union power—in this case trade union power over the Labour Party—where the majority who regard it as excessive is over four to one.

Electoral reform and trade union reform are the great issues on which the public is right and both the big parties are wrong. What is more they stand together. Effective trade union reform requires a permanent majority to support it. Under a reformed electoral system a permanent majority for a fair trade union law would inevitably come into existence. There would then be no point in the trade unions trying to reject the law, because they would have no reason to expect that they would be able to find a parliamentary majority to repeal it. These two major reforms are essential. If a centre party were to come into existence it would be of no value unless it were fully committed to both of them.

A POLITICAL FIXTURE TO BE SCRATCHED

Athletes who have spent years training for the Moscow Olympics, and athletic bureaucrats who have spent years preparing the arrangements for them, are understandably irritated when, a mere seven months before they are due to start, there is talk of cancelling or boycotting them. They feel that, again, politics is trying to interfere with harmless sport.

This notion that politics is something apart, a specialised area of life, is a concern of politicians but is irrelevant to ordinary people and their activities, is widely spread but quite illusory. All organized human activity is by definition political, and any internationally organized activity impinges on international relations in general. This was clearly recognized by the founder of the modern Olympic movement, Baron de Coubertin, who hoped that the Games would advance "the spirit of international comity". International sporting events, rightly used, can indeed promote better international relations. The corollary is that, wrongly used, they can also affect things for the worse. When that is the case, it is better to do without them.

It is now generally agreed that was the case in 1936, and that to allow the Olympics of that year to go ahead in Berlin was a mistake. It enabled Hitler to demonstrate to the German people, and to foreign governments still hesitating to treat him as a threat, that he had got away internationally. Both with his treatment of the Jews and with the reoccupation of the Rhineland in flagrant breach of the Versailles and Locarno treaties.

It was not pure coincidence that the Olympics were closely followed by the creation of the Rome-Berlin Axis.

If this year's Olympics go ahead in Moscow as normal, the Soviet Union will similarly have got away with the seizure of Afghanistan, as it got away with its interventions in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968. The peoples of the Soviet Union will be left with the impression that all is well; that their country is not only powerful but generally respected and enjoys the friendship of the entire world: which of course is exactly the impression that their rulers in the Kremlin want them to have.

The decision to hold the Games in Moscow was taken in 1974, when détente was in its heyday. At that time we said it was "on balance good" that Moscow had been chosen, hoping it would promote free and genuine contact between the Russians and other peoples. By 1978 it was clear that, in spite of the Helsinki Final Act, human rights were not blossoming in the Soviet Union. If anything they were being more harshly suppressed. We warned then that western public support for an "open door" policy would rapidly die away if political repression in the Soviet Union continued to intensify, and that the Olympics could then be in danger. Since then political repression has certainly not lessened, and it has for some time been obvious that the Moscow Olympics were going to be an embarrassing event for free men and women to take part in. But until December 26 it was at least arguable that to withdraw would be more embarrassing and more

harmful than to go on. The flagrant aggression against Afghanistan has decisively tipped the balance of argument the other way.

Ideally the Games should be moved to somewhere else. If that is not possible at this late stage, they should be simply cancelled. Lord Killanin says his committee cannot do that, because it would involve breaking contracts. But the Soviet action in Afghanistan has broken more than contracts. The fact is that Lord Killanin's committee can take the decision if it has the will, and most of its members are well aware that sport is not outside the realm of politics. If the problem would be incurred, they surely would incur it.

If the International Committee will not take this decision, the British Olympic Committee should take the decision to pull out. The Government cannot and should not take the decision for them but it should, as in the case of the British Lions South African tour, make its position very clear. Certainly there should be no question of the Duke of Edinburgh or any other member of the Royal Family gracing Moscow with their presence. Mr Vance believes that in America "if the government expressed its views, our citizens would follow that view". Things are not so simple here, and that is just as well. But certainly each responsible sporting body concerned, and each individual athlete or would-be spectator, would have an obligation to consider carefully any views on this subject that the government puts forward.

Turn of the crew

From Mr Jeremy Gann
Sir, You may be thinking that British Rail is only discriminating against rush-hour bicycles. As I was boarding the 14.08 pm "Inter-City" 125 at Exeter St David's bound for Paddington it was sternly announced: "Please stand clear, this train does not stop here; it is a crew change." Clearly their underlying philosophy is that stopping for passengers in general is too inefficient.

Need I add the train waited five minutes.
Yours faithfully,
JEREMY GANN,
25 King Henry's Road,
Lewes,
Sussex.

Vox pop

From Mrs S. Colbran
Sir, I have been ignoring articles on Militant Tendency thinking it to be a pop group. Another lost illusion!
Yours faithfully,
S. COLBRAN,
6 South Way,
Lewes,
Sussex.

Assisted places scheme

From the Headmaster of Bolton School
Sir, Mr Merlyn Rees (January 7), in supporting the Rector of Charlton's description of the assisted places scheme as "immoral", says that he does not believe that independent schools should, or should be, forced by law. He seems, therefore, prepared to accept a system in which inability to pay fees is an automatic bar to entry to many of the best schools in the country. Such a bar would seem to many much nearer to "immorality" than a scheme which enables the less well off to benefit from what these schools have to offer.

As for Mr Rees's implication that these schools are "irrelevant", he seems to be forgetting that much of the work in Nuffield science and modern mathematics is pioneered in them; that they have made a considerable contribution to improving the teaching of foreign languages; and that as the language of schools' information independent schools show they are at least holding their own with the service holding schools in providing maintained schools in science, entrants to engineering and in recent years lost sight of the assisted places scheme does not compel any

parent, or local education authority, or the Government, to do anything. The first step is for a parent to decide to apply for an assisted place: if the child is found capable of benefiting from the courses offered at the school, then, and only then, does any question of expenditure arise; and as it is means tested, it does not go where it is not needed. Furthermore, which Mr Rees again quotes as if it will be the immediate expenditure, will the immediate expenditure, the expenditure in 1981-82 is expected to be (in 1979 values) around £5 million.

Mr Rees again refers to the "two Englands". It would greatly help rational discussion of these problems if critics could refrain from this kind of emotive propaganda, exemplified also in the current issue of *Where*, in which an article attacking contemporary independent schools is headed by the "two nations" photograph from *Picture Post* of 40 years ago. Just how irrelevant can one get?
Yours faithfully,
DAVID BAGGLEY,
Bolton School,
Bolton,
Lancashire,
January 7.

Dying in police custody

From the Chairman of the Joint Central Committee of the Police Federation of England and Wales
Sir, I am prepared to accept a magnificent rebuke from *The Times* (leader, January 14) if it is justified by the facts. When the Police Federation of England and Wales officers who have chosen to speak on behalf of the service is based on misrepresentation of the views expressed, some response is called for.

On a point of simple fact, I have not made any public comment on the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr James Kelly. I have criticised people who have jumped to conclusions before the police inquiry was completed, before the member of the Police Federation made his decision, and before the inquest had heard the evidence. My speech at Liverpool, to which you appeared to be referring, was in response to a vociferous campaign which alleged that police brutality was widespread among members of the Liverpool Police.

As to the specific question of deaths in police custody, may I set out the position as we see it? In 1978, there were 562,100 cases of persons being arrested by the police, of whom 24 died either in custody or after removal to hospital. I estimate that over the past 10 years something like four million people have been in police custody, of whom 100 have died. Those of Mr Little Towers and Mr James Kelly, there has been considerable public concern and serious allegations have been made. As I am aware, in such cases, in respect of the other cases, save one case in 1976 where a recent court decision rejected allegations against the police.

The question of deaths in custody first arose some two years ago, perhaps because of the Little Towers case. The then Home Secretary replied to a parliamentary question, setting out the known facts. Nothing more was heard until Mr Michael Meacher, MP, raised the issue again towards the end of 1979. At the time, Mr Meacher was conducting a campaign in support of his proposal that independent inspectors should be appointed to make unannounced inspections of police stations to ensure that prisoners were being properly treated.

I do not know of any police officer who has died in custody, but I know of one who has been killed by a prisoner. This was a case of a police officer who was killed by a prisoner who was in custody. This was a case of a police officer who was killed by a prisoner who was in custody.

The care and custody of police prisoners in every force is conducted under the strictest supervision, which are more specific, and demand more

meticulous obedience, than anything else which takes place inside a police station. A very great personal responsibility rests upon all officers who, for the time being, are in charge of police cells. Every force requires prisoners to be visited at frequent intervals. There are instructions to be followed in the case of any prisoner who, on being taken into custody, shows signs of injury or illness. The prisoner must be seen by a medical officer and special provisions and requires additional supervision.

When, notwithstanding all sensible precautions, a prisoner dies, or is found to have injured himself or sustained injury whilst in custody, a most searching inquiry is conducted to ascertain whether any of the officers who have carried out their responsibilities. It is in the knowledge that this is one area in which disciplinary authorities are not disposed to accept excuses for mistakes or negligence, still less for abuse of prisoners, that I and others have reacted so strongly against the general tenor of the current criticism.

Are we suddenly to assume that coroners, coroners' officers, pathologists and medical practitioners are all either fools or willing accomplices in what amounts to police murder? Every single case of a death in custody has been reported to the coroner. In over 90 per cent of the cases inquests have been held. In the remainder we may safely assume that the coroner's decision not to hold an inquest was based on the available medical testimony.

Now that the names of all persons who have died in custody are to be published, to which I have no objection, is the next stage to be a mammoth fishing expedition, with all kinds of innuendo directed towards the officers who were in charge of the custody of the person who died. What happens, in such a case, to the presumption of innocence, or are police officers not to enjoy the same civil liberties as other members of the community?

I do not accept that the police are deaf to all criticism, nor do I believe that all critics of the police are malicious in intent. What I do expect is that people in responsible positions in public life, and the workers of editorial in newspapers, should at least examine the hard evidence before lending their support to a particular campaign of this kind. We seem all too ready these days to jump to the conclusion that the greater the clamour, the more real the grievance.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JARDINE,
Chairman,
Joint Central Committee,
Police Federation of England and Wales,
15-17 Langley Road,
Suttonbury,
Worcester,
January 15.

Christian names in 1979

From Mrs Margaret Brown
Sir, I feel sure that all readers, delighted by the results of *The Times* on November 13 1979, will be interested to see the trends emerging from the birth announcements column by the end of the year. For the sixteenth year in succession, James was the name most frequently used by mothers of newborn babies. As for the past four years, Elizabeth led the girls:

James	61	Elizabeth	32	11
Edward	36	Sarah	20	10
William	27	Jane	18	9
Nicholas	26	Victoria	18	8
John	24	Mary	16	4
Alexander	21	Caroline	15	14
William	21	Clare	15	12
Charles	18	Louise	15	12
David	16	Helen	11	10
Richard	16	Aimee	11	10
Robert	16	Anna	11	10

(The figures in parentheses indicate the position held in 1978.)
Even though only seven weeks' material is available for 1979, the same 10 boys' names headed the list as in 1978.
The table for first names shows James still maintaining the lead among the boys, while Victoria shared first place with Elizabeth:

James	27	Elizabeth	10
Nicholas	20	Victoria	10
Edward	16	Anna	8
William	16	Charlotte	8
Charles	15	Louise	7
Christopher	11	Sarah	7
Alexander	9	Alice	7
Andrew	9	Catherine	7
Benjamin	9	Kathryn	7
Oliver	9	Laura	7
William	9		

An analysis of the figures for 1979 shows that there were 758 births announced in *The Times*, of whom 395 were boys and 363 were girls. Included among these was a substantial backlog of announcements from the earlier part of 1979, when *The Times* was not printed. The following summary shows the distribution of names in 1979:

One Two Three Four No Names Totals				
Boys:				
170	95	4	74	395
Girls:				
191	52	2	44	363

The number of sets of twins recorded in 1979 was 10, of whom three were boys, five were girls and two were twins. The adoptions of 10 babies, made up of a boy and two girls.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BROWN,
19 Wigginton Terrace,
York.

London's third airport

From Professor R. T. Severn
Sir, I would like to add two further practical points to Sir Colin Buchanan's excellent letter which you published on January 9. Both are concerned with the future well-being of the civil engineering industry, which, in 1976-77, for example, earned in excess of £2,000 million from overseas contracts.

The North Sea programme has given us valuable experience in offshore construction, which could be improved upon by the opportunity to build an airport at Māpā. Many of the world's major cities are on estuaries, and for them, as for us, offshore sites offer appreciable advantages. Laying concrete on flat agricultural land does not give us the experience which will to compete successfully for these and other exciting potential contracts overseas.

The importance which we should attach to regaining our position at

the frontiers of engineering has recently been stressed by the Fin- nish Report, which rightly emphasises the training aspects for young engineers. But, in civil engineering at least, this training can only be achieved by involvement of the trainee in projects which call for the exercise of skills at or beyond the bounds of existing experience; projects such as an offshore airport.

Neither should we forget that our young people are acutely conscious of the environmental impact of engineering, in all its forms, and this is certainly one reason for the better minds. A major airport at Stansted would do nothing to change this situation.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. SEVERN,
Professor of Civil Engineering,
University of Bristol,
University Walk,
Bristol.

Pay proposals for coal and steel

From Sir Hugh Weeks

Sir, Some comparisons, taken from the last annual reports of the two corporations, are relevant to the very different proposals for pay by the British Steel Corporation and the National Coal Board.

First, on productivity. Comparing 1978-79 with three years earlier the output per man year in NCB declined by 3 per cent. For BSC crude steel output per man increased by 13 per cent. Finished deliveries per man by nearly 11 per cent. Both increases were better than for manufacturing industry as a whole.

Secondly, on pay. The average pay for all employees for 1978-79 in both corporations differed very slightly; compared with the previous year there was a 13 per cent increase by 23 per cent; for BSC by 12 per cent.

Thirdly, on profits. The £309m loss by BSC for 1978-79 has been a matter of great concern, giving rise to a subsidy by taxpayers in general. NCB declared a loss for that year of only £19m but this was after taking credit for revenue subsidies by the government of £172m. So a comparable figure to the BSC loss would appear to be a true loss of £19m.

The loss by BSC in 1978-79 was £134m less than in the previous year, that for NCB before subsidies was £136m more. BSC, which has to meet import competition, was not in a position to reduce its losses in coking coal which it is unable to meet.

For coal, an industry which has been making an increased loss and whose productivity was declining, a 22 per cent increase in pay was agreed with what appears to be little resistance. The reaction to the low pay increases proposed for steel, whose productivity has been increasing and whose loss has lessened, has been much more determined and steel workers are largely concentrated in the same areas.

The very proper principles that there is not a bottomless pit for subsidies for nationalised industries and that the owners and the workers are in for large part by increased productivity do not seem to have been applied with equal justice.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH WEEKS,
8 The Grove,
Highgate Village, N6.

From Mr David Crouche, MP for Canterbury (Conservative)
Sir, I supported the miners in 1973 because I felt they had a case. The

Christians and cults

From Mr K. P. Frampton

Sir, Mr Clifford Longley's article of December 31 related to the case of Scientology calls for clarification in certain respects.

1. The Deo Gloria Trust is not militant as stated. We are interdenominational Christians engaged on various projects to promote the Christian faith which has brought us into this cult involvement. Therefore we seek to inform and advise all who are troubled by the new religious movements, many of whose leaders or gurus are recruiting young and old often by costly training programmes.

2. After the long history of litigation by the Scientologists in the United States and Europe, can we really accept that the activities evidenced by the Washington contacts, such as the "Operation Church" campaign against illegal and unethical psychiatric procedures employed by the CIA? Surely nothing can justify a conspiracy to plant spies in Government agencies, break in and steal official documents and intercept the communications of the President of the United States. We have contacted with a number of ex-Scientologists and anxious parents and relatives here and abroad and, because of this involvement, we ourselves are constantly denigrated and misrepresented as we know the facts and seek to enlighten people about the cults.

Yours truly,
K. P. FRAMPTON,
Deo Gloria Trust,
5/7 London Road,
Bromley,
Kent SE16 5JH,
January 8.

Boycotting the Olympics

From Commander F. W. Collins, RN (retired)

Sir, The Olympic torch relay and the opening ceremony of the games are not part of the Olympic competitions. The relay was only instituted by the Germans in 1936 when it was, as it has continued to be, a fine publicity build-up for the opening ceremony.

It is later in the year the great opportunity for the host country to show the world its mastery of large-scale spectacular organization and entertainment, of which the visiting teams are a conspicuous part. After leaving Greece at year the torch relay will presumably be confined to eastern bloc countries, but any nation can publicly express its disgust at Russia's Afghanistan invasion by boycotting the opening ceremony.

Though the International Olympic Committee are not likely to be swayed by the political opinions of anti-Russian governments, there is no IOC rule which says that com-

Government did not agree. They had a cast iron argument and were determined to show who ran the nation. I was seen as a rebel.

How can anyone support the steelworkers today? The British Steel Corporation have an unanswerable case about low productivity and no money. Their chairman has said they are bankrupt and they could only afford a two per cent pay award, later raised to 5 per cent. Now he says it can be 12 per cent, providing productivity savings are attached.

As a mere politician, I confess to wondering if the management of the BSC is fit to solve the problem after such an inept approach. But the Government has said they are on their own and they will not intervene.

Not intervene? But they have intervened in the strongest way possible. They have tied the hands of the BSC with a rigid cash limit of £450 million. Rationalize or bust is the Government's message. Our steel industry is uncompetitive and is losing millions a month. 50,000 men must go. It is a hard decision but the argument is right.

It would be easy if we could leave it to the management and the unions. But can we? How can we stand aside and watch a harsh economic plan take its effect on the loyal workers of a great industry? They have not been on strike for over 50 years. There are no other jobs to offer them. This is not an economic problem with an industrial answer. It is a social question in which the Government will have to play a major role. It is a vital industrial relations question that will determine the climate of government/union dealings for the decade.

This Government, above all as the guardian of Israel's ideal of one nation, must not forget that tenet of its faith as it clings to its other beliefs from across the Atlantic. When D'Saevi saw the gulf between the owners and the workers, he did not stand aside. Rather, he hoped that tourism would "rise from the tomb" to announce that power has only one duty: to secure the social welfare of the people.

He was a backbencher at the time and something of a rebel.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID CROUCHE,
House of Commons,
January 15.

In the light of the above it is not good enough for the Home Secretary to consider lifting or modifying the present immigration ban. It should be remembered that the worldwide headquarters of the Church of Scientology are in Sussex and many of their policy directives emanate from the United Kingdom. No wonder Hubbard is anxious to come here with his key personnel, the Church having been discredited in many other countries.

The Government and police are already burdened with several legal actions by the Scientologists while two Scientologists in this country are appealing an extradition order for face burglary charges in Washington.

The Government should probe the strategy behind these aggressive tactics and study the evidence which suggests that they are dealing with a highly sophisticated organization which while claiming to be a Church, seems prepared to break the law, albeit in the United States—in pursuit of its aims and objects. Is it right that an immigration ban should be lifted on such an organization?

We have contacted with a number of ex-Scientologists and anxious parents and relatives here and abroad and, because of this involvement, we ourselves are constantly denigrated and misrepresented as we know the facts and seek to enlighten people about the cults.

Yours truly,
K. P. FRAMPTON,
Deo Gloria Trust,
5/7 London Road,
Bromley,
Kent SE16 5JH,
January 8.

petitors must take part in this ceremony, in fact those competing on the next day often do not, so such a boycott would not deny participation in his or her event to any athlete, but it would be a significant political act in what is now sadly an occasion of political glory for the host nation.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
F. W. COLLINS,
Commander, 1948 Olympic Torch Relay,
Stroborough Croft,
St Cross, Winchester,
January 15.

From Professor Robert Skidelsky
Sir, I very much hope the Olympic Games take place in Moscow as planned, without boycott from British or other athletes.
Sport is a substitute for war. It should not be made into an instrument of war.
Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SKIDELSKY,
University of Warwick.

Access to Public Records

From Mr Michael S. Moss
Sir, I must defend the Public Record Office against Mrs Lucy Lettice in your column of January 14. For her spirit of scholarship to be quenched by an additional 45 minute train journey from central London is a sad admission.

As a regular user of modern departmental files in the PRO's search rooms, both before and after the removal to Kew, I can only write in praise of the present facilities in comparison to the old. Before the shift to Kew it was not uncommon to wait for two or three hours for documents to arrive (even when ordered in advance) and sometimes whole days would be wasted with no production at all. I have experienced no such frustrations at Kew. I am happy to pay the additional £2 rail fare to escape from the miseries of the old days at Chancery Lane.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL S. MOSS,
University Archivist,
University of Glasgow.



COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
January 16: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at a Gala Performance of *Die Fledermaus* given in aid of the Royal Hospital and Home for Invalids, Putney, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

The Dowager Viscountess Hambleden and Captain Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 16: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Transport this afternoon received Major-General Peter Blunt on relinquishing his appointment as Representative Colonel-Commandant and Major-General Peter Blunt on assuming the appointment.

January 16: The Duke of Gloucester.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. W. H. Baker and Miss J. A. Chapman

The engagement is announced between Mr R. W. H. Baker, youngest son of Mr and Mrs H. E. Baker, of Owletts, Cobham, Kent, and Jacqueline Anne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Chapman, of Five Upton Quarry, Langton Green, Kent.

Mr D. C. Bradshaw and Miss J. R. Hayman

The engagement is announced between David Charles, only son of Mrs Mary Bradshaw, of the late Charles Bradshaw, of Hollingbury, Cheshire, and Miss J. R. Hayman, second daughter of Judge and Mrs John Hayman, of The Domes, House, Wyck, Alden, Hampshire.

Mr S. T. Brake and Miss K. E. Townsend

The engagement is announced between Simon James, only son of Mrs Irene Brake, of Dorset, and Kirstie Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Townsend, of Diddon Park, Hampshire.

Mr R. E. O. Burns and Miss A. M. Babinington

The engagement is announced between Robin Buck, second son of Mr and Mrs J. D. O. Burns, of Essex, Surrey, and Anna Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. M. Babinington, of Perth, Western Australia.

Lieutenant J. B. Cumison, RN, and Miss C. S. Ewart Smith

The engagement is announced between Johnathan, son of Mr and Mrs J. A. Cumison, of Horsham, Surrey, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Ewart Smith, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr G. E. C. Fenton and Miss E. C. Nash

The engagement is announced between Geoffrey Eric Crosland, youngest son of Lieutenant-Commander J. M. C. Fenton, DSC, RN (Retd), of Dartford, Kent, and Rosemary Anne, only daughter of Mr R. L. Smith, of Dartford, Kent.

Mr R. Yallop and Miss D. Holt

The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs R. Yallop, formerly of Farnham, Surrey, and Diana, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. M. Holt, of Wanganui, Australia.

Dr T. J. Laundry and Miss G. M. Routledge

The marriage will take place in Lincolnshire in February between Trevor John Laundry and Gillian Mary Routledge.

Luncheons

Girls' Public Day School Trust

Lady Johnston, Chairman of the Girls' Public Day School Trust, entertained Mrs J. M. Turner, chairman of the governing body, and Miss Jill Turner, Headmistress of Howell's School, Llandaff, at luncheon on Wednesday.

The appointment of the Council of the Girls' Public Day School as Trustees of Howell's School.

Dr J. M. Bae.

The Court of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames met at Watermen's Hall yesterday.

The guests were the Bishop of Exeter, the Hon Angus Ogilvy, Sir William Pile, Sir Robert Taylor and Dr J. M. Bae.

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ter, President, of The National Association of Boys Clubs visited clubs in Buckinghamshire today.

His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will unveil the statue of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, on Friday, June 6, in Whitehall, at 12.15 pm. Seating will be by invitation.

Lady Irwin gave birth to a daughter in London on Tuesday January 15.

Birthdays today

Mr Michael Clapham, 68; Mr Douglas Clapham, 77; Mr Martin Cooper, 70; Lord Geoffrey Lloyd, 78; Sir Keith Joseph, MP, 62; Sir Mervyn Macfarlane, 64; Sir William St. John, 85; Sir David Smithers, 72; Lord Wheatley, 72.

Mr C. W. Gysin

The engagement is announced between Charles William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Charles Gysin, of 4, Finchley Road, London, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. S. Gysin, of 10, Finchley Road, London.

Mr A. Harper and Miss K. Ganner

The engagement is announced between Anthony, youngest son of Mr and Mrs A. Harper, of 10, Finchley Road, London, and Katharine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Ganner, of 10, Finchley Road, London.

Capt T. D. W. Higham and Miss S. E. Northen

The engagement is announced between Simon Walton, only son of Mr and Mrs T. D. W. Higham, of 10, Finchley Road, London, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. E. Northen, of 10, Finchley Road, London.

Mr R. E. Lane and Miss E. J. Lewis

The engagement is announced between Russell Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. E. Lane, of 10, Finchley Road, London, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. J. Lewis, of 10, Finchley Road, London.

Mr S. W. Ledger and Miss T. P. Kay

The engagement is announced between Simon Walton, only son of Mr and Mrs S. W. Ledger, of 10, Finchley Road, London, and Theresa, daughter of Mr and Mrs T. P. Kay, of 10, Finchley Road, London.

Mr R. M. F. McGinness and Miss R. A. Smith

The engagement is announced between Russell Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. M. F. McGinness, of 10, Finchley Road, London, and Rosemary Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. A. Smith, of 10, Finchley Road, London.

Mr R. Yallop and Miss D. Holt

The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs R. Yallop, formerly of Farnham, Surrey, and Diana, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. M. Holt, of Wanganui, Australia.

Dr T. J. Laundry and Miss G. M. Routledge

The marriage will take place in Lincolnshire in February between Trevor John Laundry and Gillian Mary Routledge.

Luncheons

Girls' Public Day School Trust

Lady Johnston, Chairman of the Girls' Public Day School Trust, entertained Mrs J. M. Turner, chairman of the governing body, and Miss Jill Turner, Headmistress of Howell's School, Llandaff, at luncheon on Wednesday.

The appointment of the Council of the Girls' Public Day School as Trustees of Howell's School.

Dr J. M. Bae.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Detroit's
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Where have
all the
craftsmen
gone? page 17

Stock markets
FT Ind 455.5 up 13.8
FT Gilt 68.52 up 0.47
Sterling
\$2.26775 down 971 points
Index 71.7 down 0.3
Dollar
Index 84.6, up 0.3
Gold
\$755 an ounce up \$67.5
3-month money
Inter-bank 16½ to 16¼
Euro \$ 1¼ to 1¼

IN BRIEF

Shell puts 4p on petrol price at pump

Shell has announced a 4p increase in the price of its petrol without having agreed with the British National Oil Corporation on the cost of North Sea oil, which makes up half of its United Kingdom crude requirements.

The 4p rise, which was imposed around 5p to the average Shell pump price, making the charge for four star 122p, some 2p or 3p cheaper than the average price of BP petrol, which was raised by a similar amount earlier this week.

Property transfer

English Property Corporation, now controlled by the Canadian group, Olympia & York Developments Ltd, has transferred to a wholly-owned subsidiary of its parent EPC's offshoot Star Great Britain Overseas Holdings. Holdings has half of Trizec, a Canadian real estate company and newly a quarter of Landmark Land, a United States property company. EPC receives \$54m.

TV revenue down

Commercial television revenue in December was £50.3m, reflecting the continued pressure from advertisers following the blackout of screens earlier in the year. It was a slight reduction on the November revenue of £52m.

Builders more hopeful

Confidence among private house-builders in future demand is growing, according to a survey carried out by the Department of the Environment. In November builders expected to start work on 145,000 private homes in 1980, six months earlier, they were expecting 140,000 start.

600 laid off

Loss of 600 jobs at Borg-Warner, the automatic transmission manufacturers, has been blamed on the drop in the number of cars being built in Britain. The company, whose gearboxes are fitted to BL's big cars, said also that car manufacturers were holding huge stocks of transmissions unused during the engineering strike last summer.

3-year expansion plan

Crown Paints is to spend £475,000 in the first six months of 1980 on a major expansion of its factory in Darwen, Lancashire. Mr Peter Burns, the managing director said yesterday. The three-year plan, which will increase plant output by 28 per cent involves the merging of the present three separate production departments into a single unit.

MG bid today

BL executives are expected to receive today a formal offer from the consortium, led by Aston Martin Lagonda, to buy the MG sports car factory at Abingdon in Oxfordshire.

Penguin redundancies

Penguin Books, which lost £475,000 in the first six months of 1979, is to make about 50 employees redundant and cut its publishing programme by 22 per cent.

Wall Street down 3.41

The New York Stock Exchange saw profit taking on a large turnover of 67 million shares. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 3.41 to 865.19.

Three-year profit targets force huge increases in gas and electricity prices

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Huge price rises are on the way for electricity and gas consumers. Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, told the House of Commons yesterday that over the next three years domestic gas prices would have to rise at an annual rate of 10 per cent more than the rate of inflation and electricity prices by 5 per cent more.

Even on the conservative estimates of inflation prepared by the London Business School this means that by 1983 gas prices will have increased by more than 80 per cent and electricity by nearly 60 per cent. On more pessimistic assumptions gas prices could well double over the period.

Over the next 12 months consumers will face two increases. Domestic gas prices will rise by 17 per cent on April 1 with a further 10 per cent to come in October and domestic electricity prices will rise by around 17.5 per cent, varying slightly from region to region, with a further 5 per cent in October.

Most of the inflation element of the increase will thus be implemented at the start of the gas and electricity industries' financial year.

Government has imposed the need for the rises on a willing British Gas Corporation and Electricity Council by fixing financial targets for both groups requiring them to make substantial profits.

The return on British Gas's assets is set at a target of 9 per cent in real terms, a sharp increase on the 6 per cent it achieved in 1978-79 when the corporation made a record inflation-adjusted profit of £360.7m.

The scale of profits by British Gas, which has started to make a net contribution to the Exchequer, has been widely

attacked, particularly by consumer groups.

The electricity industry in England and Wales, which made a real loss of £166m in its last financial year, is required to make an average real return on net assets of 1.8 per cent—a much lower target than for gas and one which recognises the industry's higher costs.

Mr Howell told MPs that the price consumers paid for fuels must reflect their value and take into account the fact that their supply was limited.

"We must conserve our scarce energy supplies for future generations," he said. "After a year in which crude oil supplies have risen by 100 per cent or more, this is bound to mean heavy increases in other fuel prices."

Dr David Owen, Opposition Energy spokesman, described the figures as "astronomical" while Mr Wedgwood Benn, former Energy Secretary, said the resulting rise in industrial costs would lead to further difficulties in exporting and maintaining employment.

In the long run what Britain needs is a powerful manufacturing industry, on which it can rely when oil runs out," Mr Benn said.

Mr Howell's statement is welcomed by both the gas corporation and the electricity authorities. The electricity authorities have long thought that domestic gas was priced too low in comparison with its alternatives and the gas corporation faces increasingly higher costs in obtaining supplies from the fields of the northern North Sea.

Domestic gas prices rose by 10 per cent in April, 1977, and then by 8 per cent in June, 1979, but in real terms declined by more than 15 per cent in that period. The domestic market will only break even this year while industrial consumers have been forced to bear the brunt of all price

increases. Industry groups have complained of the unfairness of their subsidising domestic users and the new rises will go some way to correct this.

Neither electricity nor gas is expected to meet its new financial target in the first of the three years for which it is imposed. Both industries have pushed for a target, however, to which they could work over a reasonable period and believe they have received what they wanted.

Mr Howell recognized that in imposing a clear financial discipline on the industries, adjustments to higher prices could cause serious problems for many consumers, especially the old and the poor. The new scheme of assistance with heating costs announced by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, on October 22 was designed to provide help for those most in need but the whole range of assistance is being reviewed.

There were five reasons, Mr Howell said, why domestic gas prices had to rise. If the price were too low supplies would be burned too quickly, forcing the nation to use more expensive energy sources; in the short term low prices could cause surges in peak demand which could not be met; gas from the new North Sea fields was more expensive than earlier supplies; a sensible approach to pricing was vital to achieve a proper balance between all consumers of gas and low prices concentrated the benefits on one section of the population to the disadvantage of the rest.

Electricity prices had to rise so that they reflected the economic use of the resources consumed. They would need to rise by 5 per cent above the inflation rate. The last element of costs is fuel and the National Coal Board, the industry's biggest supplier, has agreed to keep its prices within the rate of inflation.

Warning of more cuts in sugar refining

By Richard Allen

Lord Jellicoe, chairman of Tate & Lyle, gave a warning yesterday that further cutbacks in United Kingdom sugar refining could be necessary this year unless current EEC proposals to reduce beet production quotas are allowed to go through.

Ministers are expected to discuss the latest round of sugar quotas, covering the period up to 1985, at a meeting in Brussels next week.

The proposals, which call for a reduction of around 71 per cent in European sugar production, are expected to be vigorously opposed by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, as they could force Britain to import more expensive sugar from the continent.

The British Sugar Corporation has already indicated that the effect of cutting back its own quota to something under 1.2 million tons a year could threaten 2,500 jobs in the beet industry.

Tate & Lyle, however, has always welcomed the proposals, saying that they could lead to greater price stability in Europe and rid the EEC of a sugar mountain running to three million tons a year.

Lord Jellicoe said that if the proposals were abandoned and the corporation was able to reach its production target of 1.3 million tons, Tate & Lyle might have to cut its output by 300,000 tons.

Tate & Lyle, which reported a profits jump from £24.6m to £26.2m for the year to last September, has already cut its production capacity by 650,000 tons since 1977, with a series of closures of Walkers refinery at Greenock, Strathclyde, in November.

As a result of the rationalization, trading profits from sugar refining recovered from £1.2m to £5.4m over the year.

Public sector leading way on wage rises

By David Blake
Economics Editor

Britain is heading for an increase in pay at least as great during the current pay round as during the last one and the public sector seems to be leading the way.

Average earnings in November 1979 are estimated to have been 19.2 per cent higher than a year earlier for the 21 million people covered by the Department of Employment's new index for earnings figures.

The increase compares with one of 17 per cent in the year to October, but it probably overstates the likely result of the pay round overall. The November figures may have been boosted by some catching up in overtime by workers in the engineering industry, dealing with the backlog of work. There is also a clear tendency for the earnings index to suggest an increase in the average pay of workers at this time of year which turns out to be higher than that for the whole pay round.

But the figures show with increasing clarity the difficulty which the Government is having in converting its tight fiscal and monetary policy into a

deescalation of pay. This is particularly true in the public sector, where the miners settled for about 20 per cent, the index of average earnings is much broader based than the older series which covers only 11 million workers. Much of the difference is accounted for by workers in the public sector.

There has been a tendency in recent years for the old index to rise more quickly than the new index as a result of Government pay policies holding down the earnings of the public sector more effectively than they restrained private sector pay. This year the reverse is true. The old index rose by 18.3 per cent in the year to November, which is 0.9 percentage points below the increase on the new index.

The impact of the various Cleary comparability studies is expected to push up the vital earnings index by about 2 per cent over the year.

The latest figures show that in November average earnings overtook the increase in retail prices over the previous year, with increase in prices of 17.4 per cent falling considerably below the increase in earnings.

Table, page 21 members' products.

Gold at \$755 after biggest jump ever

By Caroline Atkinson

More records were smashed on the world's bullion markets yesterday as the gold price soared yet again. After passing \$700 an ounce in New York overnight, it shot to \$765 at the morning fix in London. The \$77.5 jump from Tuesday's close was the largest recorded on a single day.

Although some of the ardour cooled during the day, the price still ended \$67.5 higher at \$755 an ounce. Hectic dealing characterized the morning session in London. The price went from \$741 to \$775 at one stage. Its closing price in New last night was \$745.

The jump was triggered by news that America was not planning to hold more gold auctions for the time being. This was contrary to market expectations.

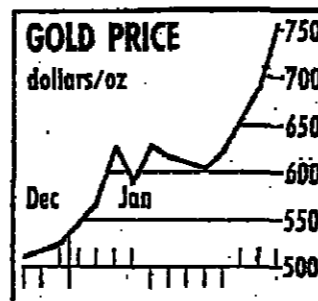
Dealers said business was heavy, although no figures for turnover on the gold market are available. Gold is traded almost without national barriers. Price movements in London are continued in New York and then the action moves to the Far East and Hongkong.

Recent price movements have an air of unreality, and no one is willing to guess where the price will go next.

International tensions have fuelled demand for gold—a traditional hedge against political instability.

It is now worth \$228.5 an ounce more than at the end of last year—an astonishing rise of more than two fifths in just over two weeks.

Despite the rush into gold, the dollar remained surpris-



two mines which were closed in 1976 because the gold price was too low.

High gold prices and rising profits from the mines are creating problems for the South African government. A sharp increase in tax revenue, combined with the constant revaluation of its gold reserves, has caused the treasury's reserves to swell.

Some City sources believe the reserves will be used to pay off foreign loans which will improve South Africa's credit rating in the eyes of international bankers.

Government officials from Britain, France, Japan, West Germany and the United States met here earlier this week to find ways to strengthen international monetary cooperation, writes Frank Vogl from Washington.

The meeting, chaired by Mr Anthony Solomon, Under-Secretary of the United States Treasury for Monetary Affairs, discussed all current monetary issues, including the International Monetary Fund's substitution account plan and what has been happening in the gold market, said a treasury spokesman.

Apparently there was general agreement at the meeting that political factors were totally dominating the gold market and that there was little point in any central bank selling gold.

At the same time the officials are believed to have reviewed latest currency market developments, with the American side indicating they were generally satisfied about the dollar's performance.

The substitution account plan for the IMF appears to have progressed. One diplomat noted that the prospects of the plan being finalized within the next few months had increased. The United States Treasury appears determined to win approval for it at the interim committee meeting of finance ministers to be held in Hamburg on April 25.

The plan aims to give central banks an opportunity to exchange some of the dollars they hold for a special asset, valued in terms of special drawing rights and carrying a market-related rate of interest, that will be issued by IMF. This system could enhance the reserve asset role of the SDR and possibly contribute to greater stability for the dollar in exchange markets.

The monetary officials are believed to have discussed ways in which the IMF's gold holdings of roughly 100 million ounces could be used to strengthen the substitution account plan.

One problem is that any use of gold in this context may appear to be a revival of gold's official role within the international monetary system, a development the United States is determined to avoid.

Gold auction: The IMF announced yesterday that its next regular gold auction will be held on February 6 and deliveries will be made to the successful bidder later in New York. The IMF, as in the past, will offer 44,000 ounces of fine gold at market-related prices and the minimum bid will be for 1,200 ounces.

NEB may sell stake in computer company

By Kenneth Owen

The National Enterprise Board is likely to dispose of its share of Systems Programming Ltd (SPL), a leading computer software house. And it will probably open up the resources of its Insac Products software marketing subsidiary to non-members, that is, those in which the NEB does not hold a stake.

Insac Products finances the development of certain software products by its member companies, in all of which the NEB holds a stake. Members at present are Computer Analysts, Logica, and Systems Designers.

Recently the managing directors of both Logica and SPL resigned from the Insac Products Board. Logica's future membership of Insac remains in doubt, and yesterday SPL confirmed that negotiations with the National Enterprise Board were taking place with the aim of a disposal of the NEB holding in Systems Programming to the private sector.

The NEB holds 30 per cent of the voting shares and 80 per cent of the non-voting shares of Systems Programming Holdings.

The new NEB board will meet next week to discuss the role of Insac, as part of a general briefing on all NEB activities. Even if membership were to remain at the present level of five companies, or to increase slightly, there would be good reasons for widening the Insac role to include the overseas marketing of non-

Kitchen Queen chairman resigns and sells shareholding for £1.5m

By Philip Robinson

Mr Neville Johnson has resigned as chairman and chief executive of Kitchen Queen and has sold a large slice of shares in the furniture group he brought to market 15 months ago.

His sudden departure follows a hard-fought clash with Mr Len Morris and Mr Jim Bentham, the two entrepreneurs who created and sold him their Mobern Home Improvements group last November.

Kitchen Queen's stockbrokers, Halliday Simpson, said that none of the trio was prepared to make any further statement last night. Mr Morris has assumed the chairmanship and Mr Bentham will continue as managing director. Both will face an estimated 100 shareholders at the group's annual meeting at noon today in Manchester.

It is understood the clash happened after Messrs Morris and Bentham, who were still running Mobern house figures for the Knott Mill and Kitchen Queen side of the group and complained that financial controls were not tight enough.

The company says it became apparent in November and December that lower sales from Kitchen Queen's retail and manufacturing operations were losing money.

Losses on the manufacturing division for the six months ending February 29 will be an estimated £1m and its retailing will amount to £400,000.

Mobern is expected to achieve profits of £1.2m in the same period, compared with forecast profits of £1.5m for the year at the time of the £5m deal with Kitchen Queen.

That will mean a group loss of £300,000. The board says



Mr Neville Johnson: departure after boardroom clash.

manufacturing will be back in the black in the second half and the retailing side will also return to profitability.

"The styles of the two sides are completely different," said Mr Don Godwin of Halliday Simpson. "After looking at all the options, it was decided that Mr Johnson should resign."

He takes with him around £1.5m from selling 8.5m of his 13 million shares to Mr Morris. The sale price was being kept secret but is believed to be around £18p.

Kitchen Queen's shares rose 2p to 28p yesterday, just 1p below the offer price in November 1978, and giving a market capitalization of £8.4m against £14m at one stage.

What went wrong to drive the profits and share price down so low, that is, the City reckon Mr Johnson tried to do too much too soon.

The rapid expansion of the company, which was formed in 1965 in a rented garage, began last April when the group bought the 44-store kitchen furniture group Knott Mill for

£2.1m. This was before Kitchen Queen had produced its first half figures as a public company.

Three months later it was talking to Mobern about buying the company. This was agreed last November.

Trouble came when Kitchen Queen wanted to integrate the two and sell the units through their own outlets. Supplies were cut off from major customers like Marley Homecraft and Dudge City, and expected sales failed to materialize at the group's own stores. But that problem, according to Halliday Simpson, has now been overcome.

Mr Morris' purchase of 28 per cent of Kitchen Queen from Mr Johnson will mean that by December he will have around 35 per cent of the whole group, far above the trigger level for a bid under Takeover Panel rules. Under the Mobern/Kitchen Queen agreement, if Mobern exceeds its profits forecast of £1.5m, Mr Morris will get a further six million shares.

Financial Editor, page 19

Future drilling in depths of 2,000 feet may be possible Floating a new platform design

Conoco yesterday announced £600m plans to develop the Hutton oil field in the North Sea using a new type of production platform. The platform is based on a concept which, the company believes, opens up the possibility of operating in depths of up to 2,000 feet, well beyond the capability of existing offshore technology.

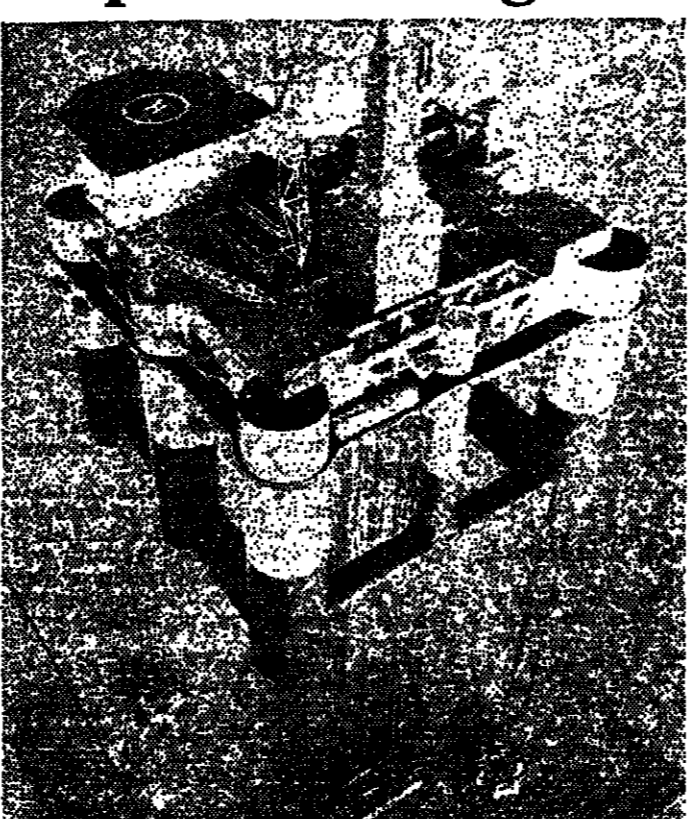
Eventually, this could alter the price/cost equation by which the viability of recovering oil reserves is determined. In the immediate future it could bring much-needed work to British ship and platform yards.

Conoco has submitted to the Department of Energy a development plan envisaging a tension leg platform (TLP). Unlike other platforms, it would be a floating structure, anchored to the seabed by vertical mooring lines.

Detailed work on the project has already begun, and there is a strong possibility that a large part of the construction will be carried out in Britain. Contracts have been awarded to Bachtel Great Britain for project services and to another American company, Veto Offshore, for design of the well system.

Conoco is negotiating a further design contract with Brown & Root (UK) and with Vickers Offshore, a subsidiary of British Shipbuilders, as subcontractors for hull and mooring design. It is also talking to Lloyd's Register about certification.

Conoco says that its platform will be less vulnerable in bad weather than conventional platforms because its facilities will be installed before it is towed into place.



A model of Conoco's tension leg platform design

The overall buoyancy of the platform will keep the line in tension and in all but the worst weather movement of the structure will be imperceptible to the 200 or so men on board. Conoco hopes platform construction will begin in 1981, with tow-out in late 1982. Production should then start early in 1984.

John Huxley

Letraset

Interim announcement

	Six months ended 31st October	Year ended 30th April	
	1979*	1978	1979
Sales (£000)	35,514	23,215	+53%
Profit before tax (£000)	6,264	5,172	+21%
Earnings per share (p)	9.29	7.94	+17%
Dividend per share (p)	1.09	0.987	+10%

*This year's interim figures include Stanley Gibbons for the first time

Group well positioned

Volume growth has continued in our graphics operations and profit margins were maintained. At Stanley Gibbons the growth opportunities were confirmed. The Leisure Products Division also performed well in increasingly difficult trading conditions. The Group is well positioned to operate in an uncertain business climate, but in a year of anticipated economic downturn the outlook for the remainder of the year is difficult to predict with confidence.

Letraset International Limited
7 Apple Tree Yard
London SW1Y 6LD

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Lapland Rand	28p to 390p
Castellfield	33p to 413p
First Nat Fin	34p to 161p
Leslie	38c to 378c
Lydenburg	35p to 195p

Falls

Allied Colloids	12p to 125p
Ass Paper	3p to 45p
Carroll Vty	15p to 355p
Deca	5c to 355c
Marivale	5c to 355c

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	2.11	2.79		
Austria Sch	29.90	64.75		
Belgium Fr	68.25	2.64		
Canada \$	12.75	12.20		
Denmark Kr	8.74	9.14		
Finland Mk	4.32	3.90		
France Fr	101.00	96.00		
Germany Dm	11.50	10.80		
Greece Dr	1965.00	1825.00		
Italy Lira	368.00	543.00		
Japan Yen	4.30	4.30		
Netherlands Gld	4.30	4.30		

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as quoted by Reuters. Different rates for foreign currency business.



Rumours of Italian devaluation refuted

Signor Gaetano Stamatidis, Italian Minister of Foreign Trade, said in Rome that Italy's trading partners would regard as "mad" if the government devalued the lira. He intervened, with an interview in the newspaper *La Repubblica*, in the debate which has gathered strength since the publication on Saturday of a £1,450,000 lire (about £800m) trade deficit for November.

He admitted that industrialists were pressing for devaluation, to compensate for loss of competitiveness abroad. Last year Italian export prices rose by about 17 per cent against an average 13 per cent in other countries. But, the minister believed, Italian firms were exporting not at a loss, only with reduced margins.

Ford first in France

Ford-France SA sold 90,650 vehicles in France last year, thus maintaining the first place among foreign importers, the company announced in Paris. The total, however, was below the 95,400 units sold in 1978, due to the six week strike in the group's British plants at the end of 1978.

Italy freezes credits

Italy will freeze its trade credits to the Soviet Union at present levels, effectively limiting Italian exports to that country, in response to the Western protest against the invasion of Afghanistan, a foreign ministry spokesman says.

Tokyo export record

Japan's certified exports in 1979 rose by 7.8 per cent to a record \$107,230m (about £47,658m) from \$99,450m a year earlier, according to the International Trade and Industry Ministry.

German petrol up

Deutsche Shell AG announced in Hamburg it will increase retail petrol prices in West Germany for super and regular grades by between six and seven pfennigs a litre and for diesel by five pfennigs from today. The present prices are super grade 106 pfennigs (about 2 1/2p) a litre, regular 104 pfennigs, and diesel 106 pfennigs.

\$70m components plant

Ford Motor Co has announced in Detroit it will build a \$70m (about £31m) plastic plant in West Berlin to manufacture components important in producing lighter, fuel-saving vehicles. It will employ 700 workers when it opens in 1981.

French jobless rise

The number of job-seekers in France rose by 1.8 per cent (seasonally adjusted) to 1,370,000 from 1,345,000 in November, the labour ministry reports. The December total was 12.4 per cent above that of December, 1978.

£3m furnace order

Born International, of Brighton, has won a £3.3m order to supply furnaces for petrochemical plants being built by West German contractors at Nanking and Shanghai. The projects have been commissioned by the China National Technical Import Corporation.

Iranians threaten to cut oil supplies if Tokyo follows American line

Japan caught in sanctions dilemma

Political developments in Iran and Afghanistan have left Japan in the midst of diplomatic and economic trouble which may seriously affect its energy programmes and industries in the months to come.

Japan intends to import 265 million tons of oil for 1980, 5 million less than in 1979. But supplies are now less predictable and will largely depend on how Japan behaves over American proposals for economic sanctions against Iran and the Soviet Union.

It appears Japan will follow the American guidelines for punitive action in spite of this week's strong warning from Iran.

Mr Ali Akbar Moinefar, Iran's oil minister, told the Japanese ambassador in Tehran that oil exports could stop if Japan imposed sanctions. This warning was received in Tokyo with "surprise" since the Japanese had been "under the impression that the newly arranged import plan for 1980—of 520,000 barrels a day at \$30 dollars per barrel, representing an increase of some 15 per cent from 1979's 460,000 barrels—would go ahead whatever anti-Iranian measures Japan might impose.

Japan's final position on sanctions depends on consultations with Mr Philip Habib, the former United States Under-Secretary of State, who arrived in Tokyo

yesterday. But it is clear that an Iranian embargo of oil would have a serious impact, cutting total oil imports by some 12 per cent.

Another "hostage" could be a petrochemical complex Japan and Iran are jointly building in Iran. It is a 780,000m yen (£138.5m) project with government investment amounting to 20,000m yen (£3.4m). Japanese construction has now stopped and the United States does not want it to be restarted despite Iranian pressure.

An alternative oil supply would be an increase of spot purchases in other markets. These account for between 10 and 12 per cent of Japan's total oil imports, though government sources have indicated that, with reserves amounting to 110 days, spot market buys should be discouraged until March.

Major international suppliers have cut their sales sharply to those not affiliated to them, and the cutback has also started affecting their own affiliates. Caltex, a subsidiary of Shell and Texaco, told Nippon Petroleum that the supply for the January-March period would be reduced by 27 per cent or 200,000 barrels a day. This alone represents some 5 per cent of Japan's total imports, and more than 10 per cent of supply by the main companies to their affiliates.

Industry sources are worried that Caltex will be followed by such as Exxon, Mobil

and Shell which seem to have placed priority on their own countries.

Faced with such bleak prospects, Japan is vulnerable to whatever retaliatory measures Iran and the Soviet Union may take. However, the government has initiated a "Save Energy" campaign, in an attempt to cut down energy consumption by 7 per cent (20 million tons) a year.

Japan needs Iranian oil and such Russian resources as oil, natural gas and coal more than they need Japanese money or technology.

It is against this background that Japan is demonstrating a measure of resistance against the United States demand for imposing sanctions. It is, however, doubtful if Tokyo can be as independent as West Germany and France may be.

Foreign ministry sources have already indicated that, despite Iran's warning, Japan would "accommodate" the American. Tokyo has also already told Washington that, as a means of expressing "displeasure" with Moscow, the Japanese government would not enter into long-range agreements or expand economic relations.

Evidently, Japan fears retaliatory action from the United States for rejecting the demand for sanctions more than it fears retaliation from Iran and the Soviet Union.

Koji Nakamura



Sir Keith Joseph (inset) told the conference the Government would not flinch from redirecting public expenditure to engineering.

Broad backing for Finniston

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Support for a new engineering authority to improve the performance of manufacturing industry came yesterday from Sir Terence Beckett, chairman and managing director of Ford of Britain.

He was speaking at a conference on the Finniston report on the engineering profession and manufacturing industry, attended by almost 300 at the City University, London.

If the authority succeeded in its job, it could eventually be disbanded, because there was value in having a number of special interests such as the universities, the professional institutions and industry, Sir Terence added.

He expected industry reaction to the report, which recommends a new authority to organize the registration of engineers and accredit their education, to be largely "yes" followed by "but".

Without a new authority to act as a continuing focus for effort, the Finniston initiative could be lost, Sir Terence warned.

Sir Terence stressed the value of a production planning group to identify market opportunities and products to exploit them.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, who will decide government policy on Finniston after consultation with the Government, would not flinch either from

creating a new organization or redirecting public expenditure if they were convinced it would improve industry.

But he gave two warnings. One was that industry's problems could not be viewed in too simplistic a way, handing one particular relationship between business management and the engineering profession. There also had to be great caution in introducing from the centre changes in a decentralized education system that was essential to a free society.

Sir Robert Clayton, technical director of the General Electric Company (GEC), supported the report's ideas. The problem was finding the right people to recruit to the industry, and particularly to discover bright middle managers

High Street jewellers at hub of new gold rush

Britain is experiencing a second gold rush, not around the offices of the bullion dealers but in High Street jewellery shops.

Imports of gold items for hallmarking in British assay offices soared by nearly 60 per cent in the last three months.

According to industry sources, the bulk of the increase was caused by the immense popularity of nine carat gold chains from Italy which undercuts the British equivalent but is banned from sale in its country of origin.

The level of imports has been so high that there has been talk of a call for a European Commission investigation to test whether the chain was subsidized by the Italian Government.

Jewellery manufacturers now believe that Italians gain the

upper hand over their British counterparts in other ways.

British manufacturers are not too worried by increasing imports, however. Many of them require finishing work in this country before going on sale.

"By and large British manufacturers had a good year in 1979," said one industry analyst. "Their main worry at the moment is that retail jewellers did well at Christmas, but because of escalating gold prices did not convert their capital into stocks."

The London, Birmingham, Sheffield and Edinburgh assay offices hallmarked a record total of 29,455,793 articles made from gold, silver and platinum last year, 2.4 million more than in 1978. Foreign wares accounted for 24.4 per cent of the total, compared with 14.4 per cent in 1978.

De Lorean may build family car

By David Felton

De Lorean Motor Cars, which is to start producing £9,000 sports cars from a new plant in West Belfast next July, is having to boost production with the introduction of new models.

Executives are looking at the possibility of building a family car alongside the sports car which received £50m aid from the last Labour Government.

Mr Eugene Caffero, De Lorean president and chief executive, said in Belfast last night that the company could not afford to rely on one model. Construction started on the Belfast plant six months ago and is expected to be producing 30,000 cars a year by the middle of 1981. The sports car will be sold initially in the United States.

Trade threat from Taiwan 'a myth', report says

By David Hewson

The supposed trade threat to the West from newly industrialized countries such as Hongkong and Taiwan is largely a myth, according to a report from the Economist Intelligence Unit published today.

In turn, the report accuses the West of underestimating its own dealings with these countries and points out that developed countries within the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development still earn substantial trade surpluses with them.

The short- and medium-term problems for the West, it concludes, are to shift the focus of industry to the products in which it is relatively competitive.

The report says action should be taken to remedy the inequality in the impact of trade with newly industrialized countries. It proposes deficits in American and Canadian manufacturing trade but surpluses for western Europe and Japan.

Nine newly industrialized countries are identified as responsible for three quarters of OECD imports. They are Hongkong, Taiwan, South Korea, Spain, Mexico, Singapore, Yugoslavia, Brazil and Portugal.

Despite the dramatic growth of this trade it accounted for only 8.5 per cent of OECD imports by 1978 and had an important impact only in certain subsectors, the report says.

Effects on employment have been small, displacing only a small part of the United Kingdom labour force between 1970 and 1977.

Protectionist measures would fail to stem the rise of these

countries, leading them into diversification, and the propping up of inefficient home industries.

Consequently protection can often be counterproductive from the point of view of the importing country. And it should be regarded as only a short-term measure to soften the impact of NIC (newly industrialized countries) competition.

Even in the subsectors most heavily affected by competition from these countries, individual companies making speciality and particularly high quality or high fashion products should not only survive but actually prosper.

Small operations are likely to be more successful in the long run, making non-speciality products at middle to upper market price ranges are likely to find the going tougher, the report adds.

It says the newly industrialized countries will continue to move into new industries and other developing countries will seek to emulate their export growth.

The most dramatic example of this could be China. The report says: "If China decides to develop large-scale export-oriented manufacturing industries it would obviously be a very different type of animal to any existing NICs."

EU Special Report No 73. The New Industrial Countries and their Impact on Western Manufacturing, £50.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Self-denigration the worst disease of the British

From Mr H. S. Hill

Sir, There can be no question of the underlying wisdom within Sir Michael Edwards's "buy British" letter. We British undoubtedly have an ease of acceptance of foreign made goods which is a source of increasing delight to our Common Market partners and continuing frustration to United Kingdom manufacturers.

Sir Michael did not refer to one alarming aspect of genuine inter trade which certainly is used as a deterrent to imports by Japan, the United States, and more particularly our EEC partners—that is technical barriers to trade.

It is so easy to invent reasons which inevitably have the effect of making it increasingly difficult for British goods to be exported whereas the United Kingdom seems to go out of its way to ease restrictions on imports.

The United States introduces a reliable car pump which is safe—but, waited until they were some years ahead on development and then created immediate importation difficulties.

The United States and Japan introduce stringent pollution limitations for car exhausts—very laudable—but again an importation restriction which is still greatly limiting imports.

Closer to home we have the continuing saga of "agreed design conditions" for air receivers. Does it not border on the incredible that discussions have been going on in Brussels to arrive at a "standard" for 14 years? At a meeting, I heard quite senior members of the commission optimistically declare that the

manner could be concluded within the next two to three years. To the uninitiated a "standard" could be determined and agreed by two or three competent engineers within two days and leave time for a round of golf. Unfortunately the underlying difficulties are deliberate and in the meantime we cannot export these items to Europe whereas we do not prevent their importation.

I have been present at meetings where both German and French partners have emphatically stated against each other that unofficial recognition of technical barriers will continue until the "other party" relaxes—meanwhile we continue to exercise our inherent right to British fair play—we buy foreign.

Numerous other examples could be quoted and if examined in detail should no doubt invoke similar actions on our part—least until a more equitable political solution is found.

In the not too distant past my company lost a substantial order for capital equipment for one of Her Majesty's dockyards—the order was awarded to an American company for goods manufactured in Italy. Our protests to the then minister of state produced the reply: "We are giving the Common Market a chance to work!"

Perhaps rather more ironically (and more recently) having supplied British Leyland in all its previous guises for 50 years we lost substantial orders for equipment manufactured not ten miles from Longbridge—the orders being placed for manufacture in

Sweden! In neither case was price or quality a significant factor.

It has been said world-wide that the British disease is trade union power. Admittedly bad and outdated union internal management techniques have made a major contribution to our economic ills—but our greatest disease is our unbelievable ability to denigrate ourselves. We are constantly assailed with our weaknesses by management associations, trade unions, newspapers, television, radio. What we do not seem to understand is that we are one of perhaps two or three countries in the world that has a nationwide "instant" communications network. All our ills become known worldwide overnight.

Conversely, what are we publicly told of the same type of ills in other countries? We condition ourselves against buying British and at the same time we condition our overseas potential customers to buy anything but British.

Let us not wait for a war suddenly to find that our neighbours are not such bad people after all—let us buy British—it may even lead us to thinking that we are British—which in turn will lead us to sell British and regain a deserved place among the world powers.

Minor advantages such as lower unemployment, higher productivity, better balance of trade payments, might even be picked up along the way.

Yours faithfully,
H. S. HILL,
47 Englewood Close,
Handsworth Wood,
Birmingham 20,
January 7.

A swing to engineering

From the President, the Secondary Heads Association

Sir, While giving welcome prominence to the report of the Finniston Committee, you have also perpetuated the notion that our secondary schools "direct a disproportionate number of their ablest children away from engineering and other applied subjects". This may have been true until the 1960s, but by the time of the "great debate" there was already a so significant swing to engineering in university applications that the number of well-qualified candidates seemed set to exceed within a few years the places available.

That trend continues this year, despite the damage done by a drop in overseas candidature; in the current round, numbers continue to rise steeply in applications for aeronautical, electrical and general engineering, in computing science (by 37 per cent), mathematics and physics. Even school leavers in the private sector now send half their university entrants to study mathematics, science and engineering.

Faced in our schools with the threatened extinction of some liberal arts, we are bewildered to receive the continuing domination.

The real deterrents are reported by the Finniston Committee—acute shortages of specialist teachers. To these must be added the inadequacies reported by the DES sur-

vey of secondary school buildings (1977) which showed 85 per cent of our schools lacking in spaces for practical subjects, and the recent survey by Her Majesty's Inspectorate, recording a shortage of laboratory space in 40 per cent of schools visited. Finally, industry and schools have not yet succeeded in dispelling the belief that engineering is a male preserve.

Those who run schools will welcome the attempts being made to ensure that British industry attracts, retains and makes use of engineering graduates of quality, and that they should be prepared for a fuller role in management. If this does not happen, we fear a repetition of events from the time of the Dainton Report in the mid-1960s. Respite from the supposed needs of the moment, schools encouraged science options, watched their pupils graduate in the early 1970s and were dismayed by the coincidence of a cutback in graduate entry by ICI and many others.

Of course, this brought a wave of potential chemical engineers back into teaching; but should we really be pinning our only hope of recruitment to schools on industrial unpredictability?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SAYER,
President, Secondary Heads Association,
29 Gordon Square,
London WC1H 0PS

Inflation accounting

From Mr H. M. Williams

Sir, Oliver Stanley (January 7) has pointed out that in 1977 the "little men" in the Institute of Chartered Accountants drew out CCA as being too complex. As one of the thousands of little men who did the throwing I would like to say that CCA was not rejected mainly as being too complex but because it was too complex, compulsory and replace Historical Cost Accounting.

I do not think I am alone when I suggest the answer to this problem of inflation accounting lies in presenting a balance sheet with two sets of figures. The first set would be the "historically factored" and therefore accurate ones (true and fair); the second set either alongside or elsewhere in note form would be the estimated up-to-date values (take them or leave them).

What I objected to was the proposal that published accounts should consist entirely of estimated figures. I feel sure that if any new proposals seek to replace fact with fiction they too will be thrown out by the little men.

Yours faithfully,
H. M. WILLIAMS,
Lower Willsborough,
Peter Tavy,
Devon PL19 9NB,
Jan 7.

Intervention in steel strike

From the Chairman of the National Committee of Conservative Trade Unionists

Sir, The article by Peter Hill in your issue of 15th January states that the Conservative Government will be forced to intervene in the steel strike to effect a settlement. It is both false and irresponsible. It is false because it assumes that the unions in the steel strike are not drawing back from the Gadarine race to destruction when realism, common sense and the interests of their members demand that they do indeed draw back.

It is irresponsible because it seeks to influence the Government to buy off the strikers with taxpayers' money and that to achieve at best a temporary relief. It shows further irresponsibility in that it risks encouraging the union leaders to believe that they might succeed in their aims, when if they did it would have disastrous consequences for the steel industry.

If the union leaders want a face saver there is one ready to hand. Let them ballot their members and the strike will soon be over.

FRED HARDMAN,
Copple House,
Coakbrookdale,
Telford,
Shropshire,
January 9.

Electrified response

From Mr Stanley Steward

Sir, I am afraid that you have turned the clock back more than twenty years by describing me as chairman of the South Western Electricity Board when publishing my letter (January 16) on this subject.

Since my time there have been three chairmen of SWEB, including the present chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, but I am sure that all would endorse my view that a programme of railway electrification is now an urgent necessity.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY STEWARD,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall,
London, SW1Y 5ER,
January 16.

Redfearn National Glass

A significant increase in volume of containers sold

The following is an extract from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. John Pratt.

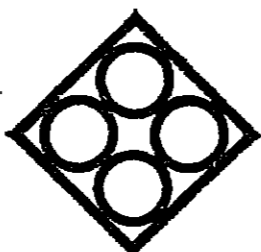
We achieved a significant increase in the volume of containers sold, leading to an improved market share. Sales of our wide-mouth bottles to the soft drinks industry more than doubled and a useful increase has been recorded in sales to the wine and spirits industry. However, these achievements were offset by reduced profit margins caused by continued price competition. There are signs that continental producers may be adopting a more realistic pricing policy. This tendency, if maintained, would of course benefit UK producers.

The aim of our cost reduction programme is to put the company in a much better competitive position vis-à-vis our continental competitors where rates of labour productivity are usually much higher. Redundancy payments as a result will bear heavily on the company in the short-term but the future benefit should be substantial.

It is, therefore, likely that the company will be in a break-even situation during the first half of the current year but I forecast a substantial improvement in the second half. Results for the full year 1979/80 are therefore likely to be comparable with those of 1978/79.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary.

REDFEARN NATIONAL GLASS LTD., FISHERGATE, YORK, YO1 4AD.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Kitchen Queen: who carries the can?

Within the mass of Stock Exchange operation, Kitchen Queen may weigh little enough. But all the same, the sudden descent of this Northern kitchen specialist from the ranks of the respectable performers raises some important questions.

How on earth does it happen that a company that came to the market with such panache and so much promise (not to mention a £1.3m profit to its founder and chairman, Mr Neville Johnson) a mere 14 months ago, can now be turning in losses on such a scale that the shares have dropped by a third in a month?

If the company was on the high road to such a debacle anyway, should not the issue have been stopped—by the issuing house, the accountants, the lawyers, or the Stock Exchange? If the problems developed in the last two months of 1979, why was the chairman still anticipating "another record year" by the middle of December? And last but not least, what happens now?

It looks as though Kitchen Queen's problems stem from a failure of management, plain and simple: and the Stock Exchange and everyone else involved in the issue is taking the line that there was no obvious sign of this 14 months ago, and it was no business of theirs to anticipate its development. This is the gist of the argument put to the Council for the Securities Industry with considerable vehemence, when it tried to introduce a new code for the issuing houses last summer; and it ought to be a source of embarrassment to everyone involved, that the deficiencies of accepted practice have been shown up so soon afterwards.

For however toughly the City establishment argues the doctrine of survival of the fittest, it is a fact that a development like this is going to be a cause of scandal to the small investors whom it is trying to inveigle back into the market (and in a case like this, very probably to the 14 institutions who took the shares that ICFC unloaded in the summer, too).

At a time when too many small companies argue that the listing requirements are so tough that they are not prepared to go public, it is absurd that such a fate should befall one of the few that have.

The company's future is now delivered into the hands of Messrs Morris and Benham. They have proved themselves adept at building companies up and selling them on; but whether they are equally adept at rescuing them remains to be seen. So the shares are a straight gamble for the moment.

170p yesterday, yielding just under 9 per cent on a maintained payment, may have come far enough until this year's outlook is clearer.

Trusthouse Forte The planned Squibb deal

If Trust House Forte was not quite up to the profits target set by the market (a 23 per cent gain to £68.2m last year against outside estimates of £70m), then the dividend did the trick. A near 50 per cent increase here to 11.438p a share gross had the shares price 16p ahead by the end of the day at 159p to yield an acceptable 7.2 per cent—not bad for a company which is demonstrating growth of this sort and which has the balance-sheet to support further ambitions.

Those ambitions, if they materialize, would provide the keynote for 1980 rather than the difficulties caused by lower



Lord Thorneycroft, chairman of Trust House Forte.

tourist traffic in this country and oil-related recession in the United States which tend to dominate market thinking about Trust House at the moment.

Plans to acquire Dobbs House, the food services business of Squibb Corporation in the United States have been overlooked. But Trust House is in the final stages of negotiation with Squibb which if successful would involve paying around £100m for a major stake in the American in-flight and airport catering. For perspective Dobbs House would come near to doubling Trust House United States profits.

Thus, Trust House, having captivated the market three years ago with its Lyons' hotels purchase, is not resting on its laurels. Conditions may be more difficult this year, but occupancy rates in its London and provincial hotels chains remain much higher than average at around 75 per cent and much the same applies overseas.

It reckons on higher profits this year (the market may be looking for £10m more) as it squeezes out greater efficiency from the existing business. Beyond that there are the expansion possibilities in the United States—and perhaps even in United Kingdom hotels. Thorneycroft, after all, has indicated it may sell off peripheral businesses after its EMI acquisition and that could see Trust House buying the Tower Hotel after all.

Letrasat Diversifying successfully

Letrasat is so far dispelling fears that it would not find it easy to diversify away from its extremely successful dry transfer base. But with more than a little help from the Stanley Gibbons acquisition in December 1978, it has got firmly back onto the growth track that appeared at one stage to be eluding this one-product group.

The latest half-year pre-tax profits are 21 per cent up at £6.26m—slightly flattened by an above the line bonus of £472,000 from damages it received from its French competitor Mecanorma over a patent infringement—while the first time inclusion of Stanley Gibbons boosting the pre-tax figure by £1.37m and adding £10m to the more than 50 per cent sales gain to £35.5m.

Even so there still seems to be some momentum in the graphics side, although volume growth in the more mature dry transfer business was only 3 per cent against 8 per cent elsewhere.

A further drop in leisure and a rise in full year interest charges to £1.6m despite the recent rights issue is likely to mean pre-tax profits for the year of about £11m where a fully taxed p/e ratio of just under 9 at 142p, up 7p yesterday, seems a fair rating given the likely dividend yield of around 8 per cent.

Economic notebook

Bearing the burden of the pound

This year's wild scramble into gold has snatched the headlines away from what is likely to prove, for Britain, a far more important movement on world financial markets: the steady rise in the value of the pound.

Sterling is now more than 8 per cent higher, against a basket of currencies, than it was in early November. It has not yet climbed back to the peaks reached in the mid summer but it is significantly higher than most economic fore-

casters expected, and, worse, much higher than British industry can stand.

The complaints from industry have been surprisingly muted. To some extent there is a conspiracy of silence about the damage the high pound is now inflicting on Britain's manufacturing base.

The Government is, on the whole in favour of a strong pound. It is certainly not willing to think of adapting its monetary and fiscal policy to engineer a fall in the rate.

The Confederation of British Industry is likewise committed to the Government's overall economic policy.

In private, however, government officials and industrialists admit that the present level of sterling is disastrously high. But publicly they stick by the need to combat inflation through tight control of the money supply, and to grin and bear the strong pound which results.

Of course, there are also hopes that the latest wave of money coming into London will subside, bringing the pound down.

One factor in the pound's recent strength has been large overseas purchases of government bonds. One interest rate start to come down some of this money is likely to take the capital gain and leave the country. Relatively high British interest rates are here to stay for some time yet.

Another reason for the present high value of the pound is the presence of North Sea oil. This makes sterling par-

ticularly attractive when currency markets are dominated by fears of oil price rises and shortages. It is anybody's guess when and to what extent present fears will subside.

The public stance of the CBI is that since the high pound is eating into industry's competitiveness, firms must try all the harder to contain cost increases through holding down pay and boosting productivity.

There is precious little evidence to suggest that this is happening. Yesterday's figures for average earnings show that pay rises in the present round are at least as large, on average, as those last year, and way above those in competitor countries.

Similarly the latest indications on productivity are that after an improvement in the second quarter of last year, there has been a further drop in the rise in the third quarter.

The Government claims some success on the pay front because of a wider than usual dispersion of pay rises around the average figure. Some firms, facing particularly difficult trading circumstances may be getting away with lower wage awards. But any such benefits are a mere drop in the ocean of lost competitiveness.

An overvalued, or, more neutrally, a high exchange rate hits at industry in two main ways. First, as firms attempt

to hold on to their overseas markets they take some of the burden of a higher pound in reduced profit margins. Rather than pass on fully the higher prices in foreign currency which result from a stronger pound they accept lower sterling prices and squeeze profits.

This profits squeeze is already happening, and has already led to some lost jobs and factory closures. A graphic illustration of the problems facing firms which depend heavily on exports came earlier this week when the Lloyds Bank reported that Britain's largest toy manufacturer made a third of its work force redundant.

The company blamed the high pound, along with high interest rates, for its present difficulties. It has found itself

gradually priced out of much of its traditional export market, especially in the United States, as the pound has risen this year.

Figures compiled in Whitehall for export profitability tell the same story. A measure of the relative profitability of export and home markets shows a sharp fall in the ratio during 1979, and even more dramatic decline when compared with late 1976.

Profits of companies outside the North Sea sector were sharply down in the first nine months of 1979 compared to 1978. Much of the fall is thought to have come in the trading sector.

The CBI estimated that the real rate of return on capital fell to around 3 per cent last year, a record low. It projected that, if current trends continue, the rate would fall to around 2 per cent—for this year on the basis of a lower exchange rate than today's.

The second way that a strong exchange rate hurts the economy is its direct effect on the volume of goods which British manufacturers can sell at home and abroad. To the extent that firms do not squeeze their profits in reaction to a rising pound, they become less price competitive.

Although some high technology products are not very price sensitive, the bulk of Britain's traded goods are. Moreover last year's drop in competitiveness was so enormous that it is bound to have an effect in almost all sectors. By the third quarter of last year British industry had lost about a fifth of the price competitiveness enjoyed in 1975.

Although sterling's decline in the final three months of last year led to some improvement there was still an overall competitive loss of about 10 per cent between the fourth quarter of 1978 and the same period last year.

Sterling's rise so far this year will, if it lasts, make British industry another few per cent less competitive.

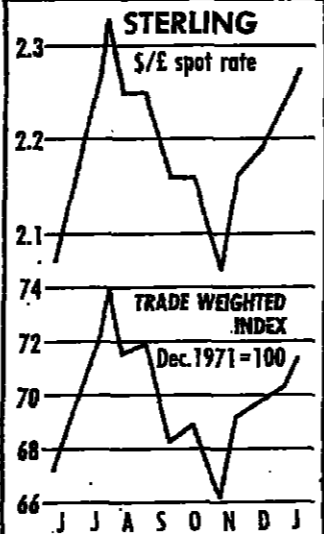
Last year's trade performance was pretty dismal. But it did not fully reflect the erosion of competitiveness during 1979. Although import volumes responded fairly quickly to changes in relative prices—they rose by 12 per cent in 1979—the effect of exchange rate changes on exports usually takes longer to feed through.

Export volumes rose by about 4 per cent in 1979. The Treasury was not expecting any rise in volumes this year when it published its last forecast in November. The pound was then assumed to remain steady in 1980: at a level several percentage points below yesterday's.

A clear illustration of the problems already facing British exporters is given by the CBI industry trends survey. This includes a question on how many firms find price a constraint on their export sales. By April last year the proportion saying that they did had reached the record level established in 1971. It has since risen to new records in July and October, and is now well above the 1978 figure.

Local changes in the availability of work may mean that a brickie in central London may

Caroline Atkinson



Imports jolt Detroit's big three car makers

Washington
The lack of foresight by Detroit's car makers in failing to prepare for the era of the small car is now exacting a heavy toll. The American car industry is in a slump; tens of thousands of workers have lost their jobs, car plants have been closed and unsold cars now fill dealers' showrooms.

High levels of inflation, interest rates and consumer debt account for some of the decline in sales, but not the main part. Demand for new cars is weaker than for other manufactured goods. At the same time, sales of domestically made cars are declining, while foreign-made cars are booming.

All this underlines Detroit's management problems. For years the leaders of the American car industry refused to believe that Americans would ever want to buy small cars in large quantities. They did not want to believe this when sales of bigger cars meant bigger profits.

It took petrol shortages and galloping petrol prices to convince Detroit in the 1970s that the Japanese are not just exporting cars to the United States (total Japanese sales in America in the first eleven months of 1979 were more than 1.9 million units); they are exporting unemployment.

So large is the American market, so evident is the trend to small cars and so significant is the protectionist threat that it seems only a question of time before the leading foreign car makers selling in the United States will open their own plants there. Volkswagen is doing well with its Pennsylvania plant, and assembled 166,000 cars there last year.

Last week Honda of Japan announced that it would build a plant in Ohio later this year to assemble 10,000 cars a month.

The increasing penetration of the American market by foreign makers and the trend by these manufacturers towards increased American output are bound to increase the long-term competition for the big three Detroit companies—Chrysler, Ford and General Motors. Adding to the competitive pressure is Renault's participation now in the development of the American Motors Corporation. Chrysler clearly has the big-

gest problems. It has just been given federal government loan guarantees which provide it with at most a breathing space. It will need large amounts of capital to survive the next few years.

Mr Lee Iacocca, the company's new chairman, who was formerly with Ford, is mounting a huge advertising campaign to revive confidence in Chrysler products. The first big test for Chrysler will be its new "K Models"—small, front-wheel drive cars, which will be launched in the autumn.

Mr Fraser said that his union would lobby for legislation which would require a large percentage of the content of cars sold in the United States to be made there. This would apply to all manufacturers who sold at least 200,000 cars a year in America.

The thrust of Mr Fraser's arguments was that the big Japanese car makers had failed to keep their promises to restrain sales to the United States. He said that "the conduct of Toyota and Nissan has been absolutely outrageous. The Japanese are not just exporting cars to the United States (total Japanese sales in America in the first eleven months of 1979 were more than 1.9 million units); they are exporting unemployment."

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New team

At Ford a new management team is also in control now. Mr Philip Caldwell is the chief executive officer and the challenge confronting him is to boost the company's small car development. Ford is also facing financial strains, having lost roughly \$1,000m (about £500m) on domestic operations last year and quite probably facing even bigger losses this year.

This company also plans to launch a small, front-wheel drive car in the autumn (tentatively called the "Escort"), which involves production and development costs of about \$3,000m alone.

Because of its sheer size the General Motors Corporation is in somewhat better shape to ride out the storm. It also beat its domestic rivals in the race to launch a front-wheel drive, compact car, which it has called the "X model" and which it introduced late last spring.

This company, however, like its rivals faces huge expense in boosting small car output and redesigning its full model range to ensure that it complies fully with government pollution and fuel-efficiency standards.

Detrit's managers have blundered in the past, thus giving a big opportunity to their foreign rivals here. The industry's recovery is bound to be slow, tough and expensive. Much more dynamic and innovative management is clearly needed and, given the large capital costs that each company faces and the fierce competition, there should be no doubt that in the American car market battle of the eighties only the fittest will survive.

Frank Vogl

Mystery of the missing brickies

John Huxley

earn £300 a week, while those on the outskirts may get only £150.

Mr Derek Phillips, the federation's director of training, says that irrespective of what official statistics might say, contractors on site report there is a shortage of skilled men. What they want to know is what to do about it.

This is the second part of the mystery. To solve it means finding the answer to two questions. Where have the craftsmen gone and how can they be persuaded to return? Equally, once in the industry, how can they be retained?

There is concern that skill shortage will prevent the industry from responding to an upturn in demand. The industry's ability to cope could be jeopardized by its lack of front-line troops, was how one builder expressed it.

For the customer, there is the risk of higher prices, longer delays and reduced standards. That there is a shortage of skills in the industry is a fact. The industry is still at a low level of activity suggests more than a temporary mismatch of resources, which can be rectified by bumping up rates or adjusting training programmes.

There is plenty of anecdotal, and some statistical evidence to suggest that large numbers of craftsmen were lost to the industry during its prolonged recession.

Shortages have been aggravated further by the subsequent boom in the more skill-intensive repair and maintenance sector, which has grown as a share of total building output from a quarter to more than a third over the past six years.

There has also been evidence of both job and geographical mobility, with craftsmen being lost—only temporarily—to the Irish Republic and West Germany.

Closer to home, fiscal factors have been at work. There is a strong body of opinion which suggests that a radical change has occurred in the relationship between contractors, sub-contractors, labour and subcontractors and self-employed workers.

It has been argued, for example, that measures aimed at ending tax abuses associated with the "lump" have helped to create a new class of self-employed sub-contractors working on a basis of free enterprise and labour only basis.

Probably most operate within the law. Others undoubtedly do not. The growth of the repair and maintenance market has coincided with a big extension of the industry's twilight zone, the underground, or black economy or unrecorded cash in hand payments.

There is no shortage of stories of former bricklayers who left the industry to work, say, as milkmen, or as shift workers in the motor industry using their free time to do building jobs. Even among craftsmen supposedly full-time in the industry, there has been a tendency as one official put it to work three days a week on the cards and then do two days down the road for cash.

Contractors argue that this growth of the black economy is being actively encouraged by value added tax which is imposed at a rate of 15 per cent on repair and maintenance building work. In practice, they say, householders are being wooed by odd-job builders who are able to undercut the legitimate contractor by not paying VAT, yet at the same time be liable for payment.

So far, attempts to assess the relative importance of these various forms of skill wastage in the demand-supply equation have proved impossible.

Contractors are beginning to say that a shortage of craftsmen—at almost any price—is a fact of life and will be so until the industry has a sufficiently stable workload to be able to offer prospective and existing workers job security and continuity.

Unfortunately, a stable workload provides not so much an answer as a whole new set of questions.

Business Diary: Child's play • A Butlin in Pontin's camp

What with Lesney firing 2,000 workers and Meccano becoming meat for transcendental meditators this year's British Toy and Hobby Fair opens on a somewhat subdued note at Earls Court on Saturday week.

David Brown, however, is remarkably cheerful for a toy-maker. Although the total market has been static in real terms for five years or more, the managing director of Lego UK says that sales were up by a quarter last year and he is introducing 46 new lines at Earls Court.

On Sunday week the chairman of this Danish firm, and the man who dreamed up the Lego idea of interlocking plastic "things", Godfried Christiansen, will be in London when his company receives the retailers' Toy of the Year award for the Space Lego range.

Lego used to be made in Wrexham under licence by Courtaulds but since 1977 it has been made in Denmark.

Brown told me that the company sold three times as many toys to boys than to girls of seven and up.

"Girls mature younger than boys," he said. "From that age their interests are more in cosmetics, clothes and records, which we don't make, rather than in construction kits, which we do make."

● Sir William Butlin has joined his fellow holiday camp commandant Sir Fred Pontin in the moves to pull Belhaven brewery out of its difficulties. As expected, Eric Morley has been named joint chairman with Ronnie Aitken, as well as chief executive. The fourth associate will be financier Trevor Baines.

The extraordinary general meeting of Belhaven shareholders in Edinburgh yesterday heard that Morley and his associates would subscribe for

800,000 ordinary shares, equal to a stake of £20,000 each. After the brief meeting Morley said that they extended to make the company a springboard for leisure enterprises through which to sell Belhaven beer. The Coral Island Hotel, Bermuda, which has hung like an albatross around shareholders' necks, is to be sold off—a deal which could put the company back in profit.

The first two contracts for supplying beer under the new regime will be with Rappers Social Club, and in Sweden.

● In Heinz Durr AEG Telefunken supervisory board chairman Hans Friederichs has made a bold choice for the top spot at the beleaguered electrical giant.

Durr is the 46-year-old managing partner of a family-owned engineering company in Stuttgart. The 1979 turn-over of the Durr Group, whose interests are in coating plants, environmental protection, and so on, was DM 365m (about £104m)—a far cry from AEG's annual turnover of more than DM 14,000m.

But Friederichs Dresdenbank chief executive, stresses Durr's engineering training and his entrepreneurial spirit—qualities demanded in the press and at the shareholders' meeting for the successor to outgoing AEG chief Walter Cipa, an oil geologist.

The Durr Group, too, despite its size, has 18 assembly plants in 11 countries, including Great Britain and Durr himself spent time abroad in Brazil and India.

Durr is well known in Germany, not outside, as the main employer representative in the pace-setting annual round of wage talks in Baden-Württemberg's metal-working industry. He has gained the reputation in an annual bout with Franz Steinkühle, his opposite number in IG Metall, for a firm but fair attitude towards the trade unions.

● Though the Chamber of Commerce of Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, is predominantly a white organization, the secretary is a black, Eric Matambo (above).

Matambo, who is 30, was appointed in May last year and is an economic graduate of the University of Rhodesia. He represents a new wave of educated blacks who are beginning to occupy key posts in commerce and industry.

The whites in Rhodesia have their Associated Chambers of Commerce of Rhodesia and the blacks the Rhodesian African Chamber. Moves to amalgamate go under way before the present shift to majority rule and both camps coexist somewhat uneasily within a Confederation of Business.



Photograph by Brian Harris



David Brown and Lego friend: selling toys that ring the right bell.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Dealing profits fall at Stock Conversion

Net revenue at property group Stock Conversion and Investment Trust has fallen in the first six months as a result of the downturn in dealing profits.

Against £1.9m last time, dealing profits in the six months to September 30, amounted to only £53,000, leaving net pre-tax revenue £750,000 lower at £4.2m.

Although there will be no dealing profits in the second half, the directors are confident that the year-end revenue will reach last time's level of £8.6m.

The interim dividend has been raised by more than 50 per cent to 3.125p gross, but this is to reduce disparity between it and the final payout and is not an indication of the total dividend level, says the company.

The net asset value of the shares on the previous valuation, amounts to 230p, against a share price 6p higher yesterday at 376p. It is thought that a current value of the group's properties would throw up a net asset value of around 450p a share.

Magnet & Southern on course for £25m

Timber and home improvement group Magnet & Southern pushed up pre-tax profits at the half way stage by 39 per cent to £12.8m. Mr Sam Oxford, the company's chairman, is confident that progress will be maintained in the second half to March 31.

Turnover rose from £60m in the first six months of 1979 to £69.5m in the same period of last year. Mr Oxford says that trading was good in the third quarter and does not "quarrel" with estimates of £25m pre-tax profits for the whole year.

An interim dividend of 4.29p gross has been declared, up 70 per cent on the last interim after allowing for the scrip issue. But it is pointed out that the increase follows the abolition of dividend restraint, and the final is not likely to increase by the same proportion.

About half of the group's turnover comes from the do-it-yourself business, and Mr Oxford says that this proportion is increasing. The group expects to add another six depots to the 200 it has around the country by the end of the current financial year, and could have 20 more.

Mr Oxford believes that the home improvement business has a long way to go. He says: "I am convinced that people will spend more on their homes than on their cars." A slow-down in consumer spending will only cause the trend to falter, he adds.

Housebuilding, the other main area of activity, is more or less static at around a quarter of the company's business. The construction side is not expected to expand, and Magnet has a policy of diversifying away from what it considers to be a politically sensitive business.

Instead, energy conservation in the form of house insulation and double glazing is regarded as very promising. Magnet has recently opened a new door factory.

At the moment the company's cash balances are about £14m, but that will be reduced by tax payments to nearer £9m by the close of the financial year. Most of these funds are in gilts, and Magnet has no new major investment plans.

The shares rose 16p on the day to 161p to yield an historic 5.2 per cent.

Stock markets

Rise across board as institutions join rally

Equities jumped back into the fray yesterday, adding impetus to further strong performances by gilts and gold shares.

After a cautious start dealers reported a sharp increase in turnover as the institutions loaded with cash, took the plunge and sent the index soaring through the 450 barrier. But with jobbers still reluctant to soak up stock, the rises were muted.

The improvement in equities was also helped by a good set of figures from the various companies reporting. Among these Tate & Lyle surged 10p to 170p on profits well above market expectations. Letraset International improved 7p to 142p after a 21 per cent hike in pre-tax profits at the interim stage and full year figures from Trusthouse Forte, the first of the big leisure group's reporting this week, were also well received pushing the shares 16p to 159p. Grand Metropolitan, reporting today advanced 5p to 146p. Reo Stakis were wanted in the first six months, turnover rose by 11 per cent to £58.63m, while pre-tax profits went ahead 28 per cent to £3.56m.

In both turnover and profit terms hotel and inn have firmly put casinos into second place.

Hotels and inn's business went up from £21.87m to £26.17m, pulling up trading profits from £1.56m to £2.2m. The casinos, nine of whom in the first six months, with a tenth in Hull just added, were good for an increase in turnover from £4.69m to £6.06m and trading profits rose from £882,000 to £1.36m.

The only laggards were the spirits and off licences where profits fell from £662,000 to £548,000.

Pub licensing hours were lengthened in Scotland, switching trade from off licences into pubs and hotels.

So encouraging a share rose from 5.08p to 7.05p, enabling the directors under Mr Reo Stakis to raise the total ordinary dividend by 75 per cent to 1.75p net, or 2.50p gross.

There is also to be a one-for-two scrip issue.

This was enough to lift the shares 8p to 59p, but even on the new dividend the yield is still less than 4 per cent. However, its cost, £619,000, is small against the profits of £2.49m.

The price-earnings ratio of 8.4 is about par for the sector.

Business this year will depend a lot on consumer spending generally, and the price of fuel in particular.

cent of Hovermarine Transport sent the shares sliding 17p to 190p while the strong demand for holidays continued to help Horizon Travel by 15p to 223p.

In builders the improvement in interim profits at Magnet & Southern provided for a 16p rise at 161p and further loan facilities helped Montague Meyer 3p at 77p but further consideration of SGB's recent figures clipped 1p to 233p.

Comments were good for an 8p rise in Elson Robbins at 89p and Brooke Street Bureau 6p better at 64p and the chair-

man's resignation at Kitchen Queen prompted a 2p rise at 30p.

Leading industrials showed some strong gains with most finishing at the best levels of the day. Glaxo rose 15p to 473p, Fisons 10p to 299p and ICI 8p to 377p.

Electricals and engineering showed little sign of the steel strike. Staveley advanced 10p to 188p and GKN 6p to 255p, earlier rose, rising 8p to 205p, after reports that it is ready to bid for Decca 15p lower at 325p. Some lines of thought, however,

anticipate a possible counter bid at some stage possibly from GEC 7p stronger at 356p yesterday.

Equity turnover on January 15, was £113.87m (17,281 bargains). Active stocks yesterday according to the Exchange Table dated Gold Fields, Premier Coal, Shell, Lonrho, Rascal, First National Finance Corp, Imperial Continental Gas, Burmah, BP, Tricentral, Delagay, Allied Colloids, Trusthouse Forte, Selection Trst, Boag, Charter, Cons, BAT and Bowater.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Int of Fin	—	0.72(0.50)	—	1.75(1.64)	2/4	2.75(1.49)
Albion (F)	—	1.5(2.4)	—	0.64(0.64)	28/3	—
Allied Colloids (I)	16.7(13.5)	1.3(0.80)	20.7(9.3)	2.1(2.3)	—	3.5(2.6)
Countryside Prop (F)	12.9(12.8)	6.26(5.17)	9.29(7.9)	1.09(0.98)	29/2	—
Letraset (I)	35.5(23.2)	12.8(9.23)	—	3.0(1.73)	31/3	—
Magnet & Soun (I)	69.5(60.0)	3.56(2.78)	7.0(5.0)	1.10(0.8)	10/4	1.75(1.0)
Reo Stakis (F)	58.6(52.7)	0.18(0.35)	—	—	—	—
Samuel Heath (I)	1.3(1.4)	4.2(4.5)	—	2.2(1.34)	10/3	—
Stock Exp (I)	—	1.6(1.2)	23.2(14.9)	4.5(2.8)	—	—
T. French & Sons (F)	15.4(13.2)	65(50.0)	20.0(16.7)	6.0(5.89)	8/4	8.0(5.3)
Trusthouse (F)	721(614.0)	26.2(24.6)	24.9(16.3)	4.0(1.05)	—	10.5(10.5)
Tate & Lyle (F)	1,390(1,147.0)	1.3(1.0)	10.8(7.4)	5.1(—)	13/3	10.25(—)
US & Gen Trst (F)	—	0.65(0.54)	—	1.7(1.4)	—	—
West Board Mills (I)	1.8(1.5)	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pre-tax profits. Earnings per share are shown net of tax on pre-tax profits. Dividends are shown net of tax on pre-tax profits. Dividends are shown net of tax on pre-tax profits.

Broking merger

By Alison Mitchell

The top two partners of the new stockbroking group being proposed by Kemp-Gee and J and A Scrimgeour will both come from Kemp-Gee.

If the merger goes ahead Mr Richard Fulford senior partner at Kemp-Gee will become the top man of the enlarged partnership while his current deputy Mr Ian Dipple will become the new number two.

Although both firms are roughly the same size—each currently has 22 partners and a staff of around 160—Kemp-Gee, which made the initial approach, appears to be the dominant negotiator.

Because it is a partnership Kemp-Gee does not disclose its annual figures but Mr Fulford admitted last year the firm paid a 60 per cent bonus to its staff. Although this compares with 80 per cent the year

before Mr Fulford stressed that this reduction was partly due to the increased salary base of the firm.

In the year to September 30, 1979, Scrimgeour made a pre-tax profit of £400,000, against £800,000 for the previous 12 months.

Kemp-Gee explains the logic of the merger as the fitting together of two complementary firms. Scrimgeour specializes in institutional gilts, corporate finance and management funds while Kemp-Gee's strength lies in its institutional equity and private client business.

Last November Scrimgeour announced merger proposals with another large City stockbroking partnership Grievson. Grant. However the talks were called off two weeks later as a result of strong reaction by key employees of both firms against the get-together.

Guinness growth rate slows

Higher interest rates and increasing costs will prevent brewing group Arthur Guinness from continuing to expand at the level of last year.

Chairman Lord Iveagh tells shareholders in the annual report that although profits will increase in the current period it is unlikely to be at last year's 18 per cent level.

However, in order to strengthen the group, Guinness will be expanding into non-brewing activities—and particularly into the materials handling field. In this area the limits to expansion will be governed by the rate at which ideas can be generated and the need to ensure the best possible service to customers, rather than by the constraints of total market size, Lord Iveagh adds.

Guinness is also hoping to expand its leisure division and has bought the Li-Lo brand name

Reo Stakis up 37 pc

By Peter Wainwright

Scottish hotels-to-gaming group, Reo Stakis Organization finished the year to September 30 last in style after hoisting pre-tax profits by 37 per cent in the first six months.

In the full year, turnover rose by 11 per cent to £58.63m, while pre-tax profits went ahead 28 per cent to £3.56m.

In both turnover and profit terms hotel and inn have firmly put casinos into second place.

Hotels and inn's business went up from £21.87m to £26.17m, pulling up trading profits from £1.56m to £2.2m. The casinos, nine of whom in the first six months, with a tenth in Hull just added, were good for an increase in turnover from £4.69m to £6.06m and trading profits rose from £882,000 to £1.36m.

The only laggards were the

spirits and off licences where profits fell from £662,000 to £548,000.

Pub licensing hours were lengthened in Scotland, switching trade from off licences into pubs and hotels.

So encouraging a share rose from 5.08p to 7.05p, enabling the directors under Mr Reo Stakis to raise the total ordinary dividend by 75 per cent to 1.75p net, or 2.50p gross.

There is also to be a one-for-two scrip issue.

This was enough to lift the shares 8p to 59p, but even on the new dividend the yield is still less than 4 per cent. However, its cost, £619,000, is small against the profits of £2.49m.

The price-earnings ratio of 8.4 is about par for the sector.

Business this year will depend a lot on consumer spending generally, and the price of fuel in particular.

Oil prices slow Allied Colloids

The increase in the cost of oil and the strength of sterling has almost halved interim profits at Allied Colloids.

This Bradford-based manufacturer of specialized chemicals, which produces a range of its products, mainly to Europe, America and Canada, and the exchange differences, compared to the same period last time, cost the group about £750,000.

As such, pre-tax profits in the six months to September 29 fell from £2.6m to £1.5m on sales up from £13.5m to £16.7m. However, recent price increases by Allied ought to help second-half figures, providing they are not outstripped by further rises in raw materials costs.

For shareholders there is a 5p increase in interim dividend of 0.92p and the directors have given no indication as to the level of the final payout. The shares yesterday fell 12p to 126p.

Properties for the third year running. In the 12 months to last September, pre-tax profits reached a record £1.3m, against £605,000. Earnings per share jumped to 20.7p (9.3p); turnover contracted from £12.87m to £12m. The total gross dividend is being raised to 5p—an increase of 25 per cent on last year.

Recommending a scrip issue and consolidation, which will raise the nominal value of each 5p share to 25p, the board is optimistic about the current year.

last year of significantly lower results. But the second-half profits should show some improvement and be closer to those of the same period last year. Heath makes products in brass and other metals.

Shareholders approve Belhaven deal

At Belhaven Brewery's extraordinary meeting held yesterday shareholders approved the conditional agreement made last December between Belhaven and the vendors of Ashpoint Ltd. They also approved the subscription for shares in Belhaven by Mr Eric Morley and his associates, the increase in the share capital and the appointment of Sir Fred Pontin to the board.

Walker extends Highland bid

The offer by Hiram Walker-Gooderham & Worts for Highland Distilleries has so far attracted acceptances on 76,700 shares. This raises the stake of Hiram Walker to just 5.1 per cent—including the 3m shares held by a subsidiary before the offer was made. The offer has been extended until January 29.

Best-ever £1.62m at Thomas French

On sales up 16 per cent to £15.4m for the year to September 29, pre-tax profits of Thomas French and Sons rose by a third to £3.4m. Earnings per share jumped by 56 per cent to 23.2p, being the total dividend, gross, is being boosted from 4.17p to 6.42p. French makes curtain styling products, etc, and specialized electrical heating equipment.

S Heath looks for better second half

Pre-tax profits of Birmingham-based Samuel Heath and Sons fell from £355,000 to £180,000 in the half-year to September 30, on turnover down from £1.43m to £1.33m. This is in line with the board's forecast

Western Board Mills still pushing ahead

Western Board Mills is still advancing, having broken through the 10m mark in 1978-79.

Before tax, they rose from £548,000 to £555,000 in the half-year to September 30, on turnover up from £2m to £1.8m. The interim dividend is being boosted from 2.05p to 2.42p gross. Mr H. M. Vogel, the chairman, thinks it is a reasonable assumption that W.B.M. is heading for profits exceeding last year's record of £1.15m pre-tax unless dislocation of the steel strike is widespread and continues for a substantial period.

Countryside Prop tops £1m mark

More than doubled profits are reported by Countryside

Boeing Shares Now Trading in London and Switzerland

For the convenience of our many European shareholders, we introduced our shares for trading on The Stock Exchange, London, on January 14, 1980, and the Stock Exchanges in Zurich, Geneva and Basel on January 17, 1980. In addition, our shares have been actively traded for many years on the Brussels and Amsterdam Stock Exchanges and in the free market (Freiverkehr) in Frankfurt. You can thus check prices and trading in your local financial press.

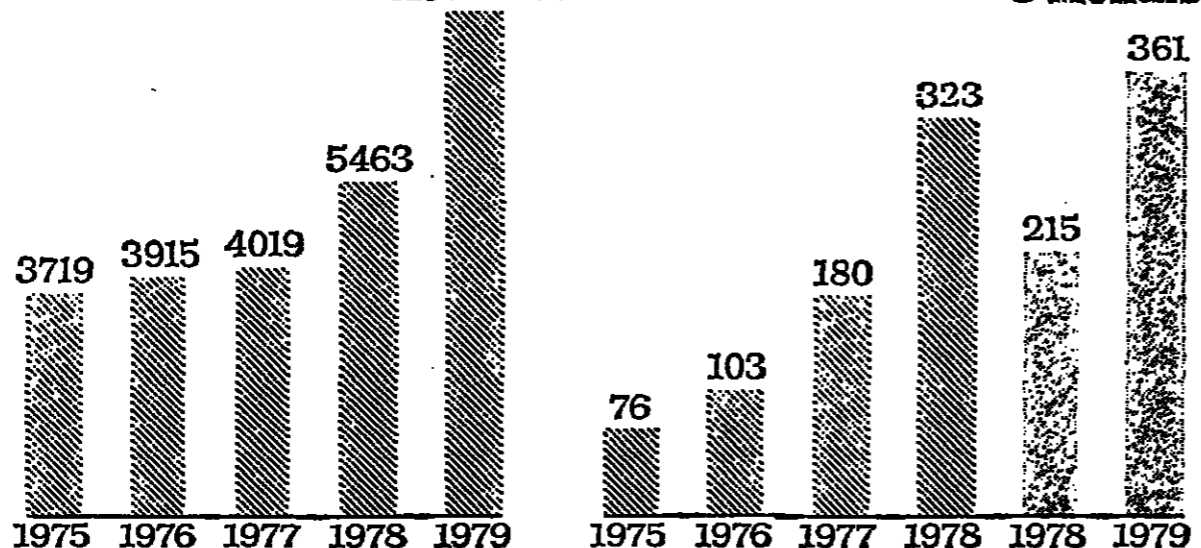
Financial Highlights

Sales (\$ in millions)

Net Earnings (\$ in millions)

8100-8200

9 Months



Dividends paid per share:

1978 \$ 1.30 (adjusted for 3 for 2 split)
1979 \$ 2.10

Total backlog:

	Commercial Customers	U.S. Government
31 December 1978	\$ 11,154 million	86%
31 December 1979	\$ 16,211 million	90%

(Announced orders for which definite contracts have not been executed and purchase options are not included in commercial backlog.)

If you would like to receive a copy of the statement made by Mr. T.A. Wilson, chairman of the board and chief executive officer, in connection with these share introductions, please write to: BOEING Investor Relations, c/o Marsteller, 69 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 75008 Paris, France.

THE BOEING COMPANY

Higher interest boosting US banks

United States banks continue to report better earnings figures with most of them attributing the improvement to higher interest rates.

Chase Manhattan, the third largest United States bank, reported an increase in income before securities transactions from \$197.2m to \$211.2m, equivalent to a 62 per cent jump in earnings per share to \$9.07. Fourth quarter income rose 31 per cent to \$76.7m on the same period last year. But it was 6 per cent down on the third quarter of 1979 because of lower overseas net interest income as a result of narrower interest rate spreads and a higher level of operating expenses only partially offset by an increase in other operating income.

Provisions for loan losses also dropped in the fourth quarter from \$42.8m to \$36m, leaving the balance for possible loan losses at \$420.8m equivalent to 1.04 per cent of the loan portfolio.

Also in New York, Marine Midland, whose takeover by Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank is still being held up by the United States banking authorities, reported an even sharper improvement with net income

before securities transactions 74.4 per cent ahead at \$42.8m. Net interest income of \$345m was 11.4 per cent ahead and the highest in the bank's history.

Much the same picture has emerged from the big Californian banks although Wells Fargo's 11 per cent rise in net income to \$130.2m was not quite as spectacular as the New York money-centre banks who had more ground to make after earlier property losses.

The bank attributes the up-

International

turn to a good performance from retail banking, helped by the expansion of its branch network.

Domestic loans were above those of the year before but tighter conditions in the international loan market coupled with Wells Fargo's decision to forego lending to less credit-worthy customers has resulted in a decline in overseas lending.

Hudson Bay offer

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company of Canada says its wholly-owned subsidiary

(£75m). New single premium income during the year amounted to £430,000 and new annual premium income to £1.3m.

TRICENTROL

Recommended cash offers by Tricentrol for Cableform Group have received acceptances from holders of over 80 per cent of ordinary capital in its annual statement.

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

City of Westminster Assurance continues to expand its business,

Briefly

with single premiums by 80 per cent and regular premiums by 16 per cent. New single premium income was £5.5m and regular premium was £1.5m. City of Westminster Assurance is a subsidiary of the Sennys Insurance Group.

BOULTON AND PAUL
Pre-tax profits of Boulton and Paul (subsidiary of BET) rose from £3.3m to £3.7m in the half-year to September 30. Turnover: £40.33m (£37.44m).

RELIANCE MUTUAL
An increase of 127 per cent in new life business written during 1979 is reported by the Reliance Mutual. New ordinary branch life same assured reached £166m

before securities transactions 74.4 per cent ahead at \$42.8m. Net interest income of \$345m was 11.4 per cent ahead and the highest in the bank's history.

Much the same picture has emerged from the big Californian banks although Wells Fargo's 11 per cent rise in net income to \$130.2m was not quite as spectacular as the New York money-centre banks who had more ground to make after earlier property losses.

The bank attributes the up-

International

turn to a good performance from retail banking, helped by the expansion of its branch network.

Domestic loans were above those of the year before but tighter conditions in the international loan market coupled with Wells Fargo's decision to forego lending to less credit-worthy customers has resulted in a decline in overseas lending.

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Options

Bank Base Rates

The Over-the-

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Mine results follow trend in gold prices

By Michael Press

Results for the December quarter from General Mining and Union Corporation confirm the trend towards higher gold prices received and bigger profits.

Among the General Mining group mines, Buffelsfontein and Schilfontein saw their after-tax profits rise by 60 per cent and 75 per cent respectively. The 75 per cent increase in profits, except Grootvlei which rose 69 per cent.

West Rand Consolidated, in the Gen Min group, turned a loss of R486,000 (£261,000) into an R286m profit. Union, a new mine in the Union group, made a profit of R6.88m in its first three months of operation.

Grade for mines in both groups were much the same as in the previous quarter. The biggest change was at Bracken, one of the Union mines, where the decline in yields from 5.4 grammes per ton to 4.6 contributed to a 10 per cent fall in profits to R2.1m.

The average tax rate in all the mines was about 60 per cent. But at St Helena the tax charge remained the same as in the previous quarter, leading to a record profits of R13.6m.

At Gen Min, the average gold price received for the three months was \$414.6, up 36.4 per cent over the previous three months. Union's average was up by 31.5 per cent to \$414.5, including Union reporting for the first time.

Building Societies

Nationwide

In 1979, the Nationwide Building Society's assets expanded by 19 per cent to £3,935m. The chief executive, Mr Leonard Williams, reported yesterday, in a year which was difficult for societies, Nationwide's gross receipts of £1,834m, its net receipts (after withdrawals) of £866m, and its mortgage advances of £866m, were all records.

Options

Business among traded options continued to soar yesterday and total contracts rose from 1,089 to 1,192. Consolidated Gold Fields again dominated demand accounting for 610 contracts helped still further by the gold price. The rise in the price to 466p has prompted the introduction of a new series of April and July 500p contracts on Friday and day week the start of a new series of Commercial Union July 160p series.

AVERAGE EARNINGS

The following are the index numbers for average earnings of employees in all industries and services covered by the monthly earnings inquiry released by the Department of Employment:

	(1) Old series of earnings (1975=100)	(2) New series of earnings (1975=100)	Change in earnings over 3 months at annualised rate
1978			
Nov	344.5	136.1	12.2
Dec	350.1	138.0	13.5
1979			
Jan	344.7	135.7	0.2
Feb	349.3	141.1	13.5
Mar	369.3	143.7	23.8
Apr	368.1	144.3	30.0
May	373.2	146.9	21.3
Jun	386.6	150.9	20.1
Jul	387.8	156.6	23.2
Aug	384.1	153.3	13.0
Sep	384.1	153.8	-2.6
Oct	401.3	158.1	25.9
Nov	407.8	162.2	26.8

Bank Base Rates

Bank	12 months	6 months	3 months	1 month
ABN Bank	17%	17%	17%	17%
Barclays Bank	17%	17%	17%	17%
ECCT Bank	17%	17%	17%	17%
Consolidated Crdts	17%	17%	17%	17%
C. Hoare & Co	17%	17%	17%	17%
Lloyds Bank	17%	17%	17%	17%
London Mercantile	17%	17%	17%	17%
Midland Bank	17%	17%	17%	17%
Nat Westminster	17%	17%	17%	17%
Royal Bank	17%	17%	17%	17%
TSB	17%	17%	17%	17%
Williams and Glyn's	17%	17%	17%	17%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 15% up to £25,000 15% over £25,000 16%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC8R 9EB Telephone: 01-638 8651

The Over-the-Counter Market

1979/80	Company	Price	Ch's	Div	Yld	P/E
99	73	Airsprung Group	73	-	6.7	9.2
50	38	Armitage & Rhodes	225	-	3.8	9.7
225	185	Bardon Hill	92	-	5.0	5.4
101	63	Deborah 17% CULS	350	-	17.5	5.0
333	140	Deborah 17% CULS	82	-	7.9	8.6
98	38	Frank Horsell	92	-	12.8	11.7
129	100	Frederick Parker	107	-	16.5	15.4
156	106	George Blair	59	-	5.2	8.8
61	45	Jackson Group	116	-	7.2	6.2
153	115	James Burroughs	247	-	31.3	12.7
300	242	Robert Jenkins	223	-	14.3	6.4
232	175	Torday Limited	211	-	1.0	3.9
34	161	Twinkllock Ord	76	-	1.2	15.8
80	70	Twinkllock Holdings	55	-	2.6	5.3
56	23	Unilock Alexander	82	-	4.4	5.3
84	42	Walker Alexander	185	-	11.5	6.2
190	136	W. S. Yeates				

* Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15.

Wall Street

Gold peaks at \$745.00

New York, Jan 16.—The stock market opened a day of profit taking late in the day and prices edged narrowly lower in very heavy turnover.

Analysts said stocks were due for a correction after recent strength and that late weakness in the dollar, silver and gold stocks provided an excuse for some selling.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 3.41 but advanced 0.01 declines as volume rose to 2,700,000 shares from 2,332 million yesterday, the second heaviest turnover ever.

The heaviest trading to date occurred on October 10, 1979 when the Dow Jones rose 10.00.

Gold prices peaked at \$745.00 a troy ounce on Jan 16, after a rise of \$10.00 from \$735.00 on Jan 15. The price of gold fell to \$730.00 on Jan 17.

Silver prices peaked at \$18.00 a troy ounce on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.50 from \$17.50 on Jan 15. The price of silver fell to \$17.00 on Jan 17.

Oil prices peaked at \$20.00 a barrel on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.50 from \$19.50 on Jan 15. The price of oil fell to \$19.00 on Jan 17.

Grain prices peaked at \$2.50 a bushel on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.05 from \$2.45 on Jan 15. The price of grain fell to \$2.40 on Jan 17.

Stock prices peaked at \$100.00 a share on Jan 16, after a rise of \$1.00 from \$99.00 on Jan 15. The price of stocks fell to \$98.00 on Jan 17.

Commodity prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of commodities fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Foreign exchange rates peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of foreign exchange fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Interest rates peaked at 10% on Jan 16, after a rise of 0.01% from 9.99% on Jan 15. The price of interest rates fell to 9.98% on Jan 17.

Real estate prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of real estate fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Automotive prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of automotive fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Electronics prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of electronics fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Telecommunications prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of telecommunications fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Healthcare prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of healthcare fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Energy prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of energy fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Chemicals prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of chemicals fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Metals prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of metals fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Textiles prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of textiles fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Food prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of food fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Services prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of services fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Transportation prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of transportation fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Recreation prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of recreation fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Education prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of education fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Health prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of health fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Other prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of other fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Unemployment prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of unemployment fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Inflation prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of inflation fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Interest rates prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of interest rates fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Real estate prices prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of real estate fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Automotive prices prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of automotive fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

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Energy prices prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of energy fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Chemicals prices prices peaked at \$1.00 a unit on Jan 16, after a rise of \$0.01 from \$0.99 on Jan 15. The price of chemicals fell to \$0.98 on Jan 17.

Jan 16	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 12	Jan 11
Alcoa	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Aluminum	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Amstar	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Armco	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Avco	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Boeing	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Chrysler	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Colgate	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Conoco	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
DuPont	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Eastman	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Exxon	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
General	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
IBM	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Johnson	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Kodak	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Lockheed	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
McDonald	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Merck	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Microsoft	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Motorola	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Norfolk	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Occidental	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Orion	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Packard	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Polaroid	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Raychem	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Rockwell	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Sony	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Spacelabs	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Texas	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Transtek	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Unisys	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Wang	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Westinghouse	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
World	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00
Yale	100.00	98.00	96.00	94.00	92.00

Foreign exchange rates, spot, 100 units of foreign currency per £ sterling, 100 units of foreign currency per £ sterling, 100 units of foreign currency per £ sterling.

Interest rates, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 36 months, 48 months, 60 months, 72 months, 84 months, 96 months, 108 months, 120 months, 132 months, 144 months, 156 months, 168 months, 180 months, 192 months, 204 months, 216 months, 228 months, 240 months, 252 months, 264 months, 276 months, 288 months, 300 months, 312 months, 324 months, 336 months, 348 months, 360 months, 372 months, 384 months, 396 months, 408 months, 420 months, 432 months, 444 months, 456 months, 468 months, 480 months, 492 months, 504 months, 516 months, 528 months, 540 months, 552 months, 564 months, 576 months, 588 months, 600 months, 612 months, 624 months, 636 months, 648 months, 660 months, 672 months, 684 months, 696 months, 708 months, 720 months, 732 months, 744 months, 756 months, 768 months, 780 months, 792 months, 804 months, 816 months, 828 months, 840 months, 852 months, 864 months, 876 months, 888 months, 900 months, 912 months, 924 months, 936 months, 948 months, 960 months, 972 months, 984 months, 996 months, 1008 months, 1020 months, 1032 months, 1044 months, 1056 months, 1068 months, 1080 months, 1092 months, 1104 months, 1116 months, 1128 months, 1140 months, 1152 months, 1164 months, 1176 months, 1188 months, 1200 months, 1212 months, 1224 months, 1236 months, 1248 months, 1260 months, 1272 months, 1284 months, 1296 months, 1308 months, 1320 months, 1332 months, 1344 months, 1356 months, 1368 months, 1380 months, 1392 months, 1404 months, 1416 months, 1428 months, 1440 months, 1452 months, 1464 months, 1476 months, 1488 months, 1500 months, 1512 months, 1524 months, 1536 months, 1548 months, 1560 months, 1572 months, 1584 months, 1596 months, 1608 months, 1620 months, 1632 months, 1644 months, 1656 months, 1668 months, 1680 months, 1692 months, 1704 months, 1716 months, 1728 months, 1740 months, 1752 months, 1764 months, 1776 months, 1788 months, 1800 months, 1812 months, 1824 months, 1836 months, 1848 months, 1860 months, 1872 months, 1884 months, 1896 months, 1908 months, 1920 months, 1932 months, 1944 months, 1956 months, 1968 months, 1980 months, 1992 months, 2004 months, 2016 months, 2028 months, 2040 months, 2052 months, 2064 months, 2076 months, 2088 months, 2100 months, 2112 months, 2124 months, 2136 months, 2148 months, 2160 months, 2172 months, 2184 months, 2196 months, 2208 months, 2220 months, 2232 months, 2244 months, 2256 months, 2268 months, 2280 months, 2292 months, 2304 months, 2316 months, 2328 months, 2340 months, 2352 months, 2364 months, 2376 months, 2388 months, 2400 months, 2412 months, 2424 months, 2436 months, 2448 months, 2460 months, 2472 months, 2484 months, 2496 months, 2508 months, 2520 months, 2532 months, 2544 months, 2556 months, 2568 months, 2580 months, 2592 months, 2604 months, 2616 months, 2628 months, 2640 months, 2652 months, 2664 months, 2676 months, 2688 months, 2700 months, 2712 months, 2724 months, 2736 months, 2748 months, 2760 months, 2772 months, 2784 months, 2796 months, 2808 months, 2820 months, 2832 months, 2844 months, 2856 months, 2868 months, 2880 months, 2892 months, 2904 months, 2916 months, 2928 months, 2940 months, 2952 months, 2964 months, 2976 months, 2988 months, 3000 months, 3012 months, 3024 months, 3036 months, 3048 months, 3060 months, 3072 months, 3084 months, 3096 months, 3108 months, 3120 months, 3132 months, 3144 months, 3156 months, 3168 months, 3180 months, 3192 months, 3204 months, 3216 months, 3228 months, 3240 months, 3252 months, 3264 months, 3276 months, 3288 months, 3300 months, 3312 months, 3324 months, 3336 months, 3348 months, 3360 months, 3372 months, 3384 months, 3396 months, 3408 months, 3420 months, 3432 months, 3444 months, 3456 months, 3468 months, 3480 months, 3492 months, 3504 months, 3516 months, 3528 months, 3540 months, 3552 months, 3564 months, 3576 months, 3588 months, 3600 months, 3612 months, 3624 months, 3636 months, 3648 months, 3660 months, 3672 months, 3684 months, 3696 months, 3708 months, 3720 months, 3732 months, 3744 months, 3756 months, 3768 months, 3780 months, 3792 months, 3804 months, 3816 months, 3828 months, 3840 months, 3852 months, 3864 months, 3876 months, 3888 months, 3900 months, 3912 months, 3924 months, 3936 months, 3948 months, 3960 months, 3972 months, 3984 months, 3996 months, 4008 months, 4020 months, 4032 months, 4044 months, 4056 months, 4068 months, 4080 months, 4092 months, 4104 months, 4116 months, 4128 months, 4140 months, 4152 months, 4164 months, 4176 months, 4188 months, 4200 months, 4212 months, 4224 months, 4236 months, 4248 months, 4260 months, 4272 months, 4284 months, 4296 months, 4308

Stock Exchange Prices

Sharp gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 14. Dealings End, Jan 25. § Contango Day, Jan 28. Settlement Day, Feb 4

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS				COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL				INVESTMENT TRUSTS				PROPERTY			
Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%
100% Treas 1980-1985	8.177			100% Treas 1980-1985	8.177			100% Treas 1980-1985	8.177			100% Treas 1980-1985	8.177		
100% Treas 1985-1990	8.177			100% Treas 1985-1990	8.177			100% Treas 1985-1990	8.177			100% Treas 1985-1990	8.177		
100% Treas 1990-1995	8.177			100% Treas 1990-1995	8.177			100% Treas 1990-1995	8.177			100% Treas 1990-1995	8.177		
100% Treas 1995-2000	8.177			100% Treas 1995-2000	8.177			100% Treas 1995-2000	8.177			100% Treas 1995-2000	8.177		
100% Treas 2000-2005	8.177			100% Treas 2000-2005	8.177			100% Treas 2000-2005	8.177			100% Treas 2000-2005	8.177		
100% Treas 2005-2010	8.177			100% Treas 2005-2010	8.177			100% Treas 2005-2010	8.177			100% Treas 2005-2010	8.177		
100% Treas 2010-2015	8.177			100% Treas 2010-2015	8.177			100% Treas 2010-2015	8.177			100% Treas 2010-2015	8.177		
100% Treas 2015-2020	8.177			100% Treas 2015-2020	8.177			100% Treas 2015-2020	8.177			100% Treas 2015-2020	8.177		
100% Treas 2020-2025	8.177			100% Treas 2020-2025	8.177			100% Treas 2020-2025	8.177			100% Treas 2020-2025	8.177		
100% Treas 2025-2030	8.177			100% Treas 2025-2030	8.177			100% Treas 2025-2030	8.177			100% Treas 2025-2030	8.177		
100% Treas 2030-2035	8.177			100% Treas 2030-2035	8.177			100% Treas 2030-2035	8.177			100% Treas 2030-2035	8.177		
100% Treas 2035-2040	8.177			100% Treas 2035-2040	8.177			100% Treas 2035-2040	8.177			100% Treas 2035-2040	8.177		
100% Treas 2040-2045	8.177			100% Treas 2040-2045	8.177			100% Treas 2040-2045	8.177			100% Treas 2040-2045	8.177		
100% Treas 2045-2050	8.177			100% Treas 2045-2050	8.177			100% Treas 2045-2050	8.177			100% Treas 2045-2050	8.177		
100% Treas 2050-2055	8.177			100% Treas 2050-2055	8.177			100% Treas 2050-2055	8.177			100% Treas 2050-2055	8.177		
100% Treas 2055-2060	8.177			100% Treas 2055-2060	8.177			100% Treas 2055-2060	8.177			100% Treas 2055-2060	8.177		
100% Treas 2060-2065	8.177			100% Treas 2060-2065	8.177			100% Treas 2060-2065	8.177			100% Treas 2060-2065	8.177		
100% Treas 2065-2070	8.177			100% Treas 2065-2070	8.177			100% Treas 2065-2070	8.177			100% Treas 2065-2070	8.177		
100% Treas 2070-2075	8.177			100% Treas 2070-2075	8.177			100% Treas 2070-2075	8.177			100% Treas 2070-2075	8.177		
100% Treas 2075-2080	8.177			100% Treas 2075-2080	8.177			100% Treas 2075-2080	8.177			100% Treas 2075-2080	8.177		
100% Treas 2080-2085	8.177			100% Treas 2080-2085	8.177			100% Treas 2080-2085	8.177			100% Treas 2080-2085	8.177		
100% Treas 2085-2090	8.177			100% Treas 2085-2090	8.177			100% Treas 2085-2090	8.177			100% Treas 2085-2090	8.177		
100% Treas 2090-2095	8.177			100% Treas 2090-2095	8.177			100% Treas 2090-2095	8.177			100% Treas 2090-2095	8.177		
100% Treas 2095-2100	8.177			100% Treas 2095-2100	8.177			100% Treas 2095-2100	8.177			100% Treas 2095-2100	8.177		
100% Treas 2100-2105	8.177			100% Treas 2100-2105	8.177			100% Treas 2100-2105	8.177			100% Treas 2100-2105	8.177		
100% Treas 2105-2110	8.177			100% Treas 2105-2110	8.177			100% Treas 2105-2110	8.177			100% Treas 2105-2110	8.177		
100% Treas 2110-2115	8.177			100% Treas 2110-2115	8.177			100% Treas 2110-2115	8.177			100% Treas 2110-2115	8.177		
100% Treas 2115-2120	8.177			100% Treas 2115-2120	8.177			100% Treas 2115-2120	8.177			100% Treas 2115-2120	8.177		
100% Treas 2120-2125	8.177			100% Treas 2120-2125	8.177			100% Treas 2120-2125	8.177			100% Treas 2120-2125	8.177		
100% Treas 2125-2130	8.177			100% Treas 2125-2130	8.177			100% Treas 2125-2130	8.177			100% Treas 2125-2130	8.177		
100% Treas 2130-2135	8.177			100% Treas 2130-2135	8.177			100% Treas 2130-2135	8.177			100% Treas 2130-2135	8.177		
100% Treas 2135-2140	8.177			100% Treas 2135-2140	8.177			100% Treas 2135-2140	8.177			100% Treas 2135-2140	8.177		
100% Treas 2140-2145	8.177			100% Treas 2140-2145	8.177			100% Treas 2140-2145	8.177			100% Treas 2140-2145	8.177		
100% Treas 2145-2150	8.177			100% Treas 2145-2150	8.177			100% Treas 2145-2150	8.177			100% Treas 2145-2150	8.177		
100% Treas 2150-2155	8.177			100% Treas 2150-2155	8.177			100% Treas 2150-2155	8.177			100% Treas 2150-2155	8.177		
100% Treas 2155-2160	8.177			100% Treas 2155-2160	8.177			100% Treas 2155-2160	8.177			100% Treas 2155-2160	8.177		
100% Treas 2160-2165	8.177			100% Treas 2160-2165	8.177			100% Treas 2160-2165	8.177			100% Treas 2160-2165	8.177		
100% Treas 2165-2170	8.177			100% Treas 2165-2170	8.177			100% Treas 2165-2170	8.177			100% Treas 2165-2170	8.177		
100% Treas 2170-2175	8.177			100% Treas 2170-2175	8.177			100% Treas 2170-2175	8.177			100% Treas 2170-2175	8.177		
100% Treas 2175-2180	8.177			100% Treas 2175-2180	8.177			100% Treas 2175-2180	8.177			100% Treas 2175-2180	8.177		
100% Treas 2180-2185	8.177			100% Treas 2180-2185	8.177			100% Treas 2180-2185	8.177			100% Treas 2180-2185	8.177		
100% Treas 2185-2190	8.177			100% Treas 2185-2190	8.177			100% Treas 2185-2190	8.177			100% Treas 2185-2190	8.177		
100% Treas 2190-2195	8.177			100% Treas 2190-2195	8.177			100% Treas 2190-2195	8.177			100% Treas 2190-2195	8.177		
100% Treas 2195-2200	8.177			100% Treas 2195-2200	8.177			100% Treas 2195-2200	8.177			100% Treas 2195-2200	8.177		
100% Treas 2200-2205	8.177			100% Treas 2200-2205	8.177			100% Treas 2200-2205	8.177			100% Treas 2200-2205	8.177		
100% Treas 2205-2210	8.177			100% Treas 2205-2210	8.177			100% Treas 2205-2210	8.177			100% Treas 2205-2210	8.177		
100% Treas 2210-2215	8.177			100% Treas 2210-2215	8.177			100% Treas 2210-2215	8.177			100% Treas 2210-2215	8.177		
100% Treas 2215-2220	8.177			100% Treas 2215-2220	8.177			100% Treas 2215-2220	8.177			100% Treas 2215-2220	8.177		
100% Treas 2220-2225	8.177			100% Treas 2220-2225	8.177			100% Treas 2220-2225	8.177			100% Treas 2220-2225	8.177		
100% Treas 2225-2230	8.177			100% Treas 2225-2230	8.177			100% Treas 2225-2230	8.177			100% Treas 2225-2230	8.177		
100% Treas 2230-2235	8.177			100% Treas 2230-2235	8.177			100% Treas 2230-2235	8.177			100% Treas 2230-2235	8.177		
100% Treas 2235-2240	8.177			100% Treas 2235-2240	8.177			100% Treas 2235-2240	8.177			100% Treas 2235-2240	8.177		
100% Treas 2240-2245	8.177			100% Treas 2240-2245	8.177			100% Treas 2240-2245	8.177			100% Treas 2240-2245	8.177		
100% Treas 2245-2250	8.177			100% Treas 2245-2250	8.177			100% Treas 2245-2250	8.177			100% Treas 2245-2250	8.177		
100% Treas 2250-2255	8.177			100% Treas 2250-2255	8.177			100% Treas 2250-2255	8.177			100% Treas 2250-2255	8.177		
100% Treas 2255-2260	8.177			100% Treas 2255-2260	8.177			100% Treas 2255-2260	8.177			100% Treas 2255-2260	8.177		
100% Treas 2260-2265	8.177			100% Treas 2260-2265	8.177			100% Treas 2260-2265	8.177			100% Treas 2260-2265	8.177		
100% Treas 2265-2270	8.177			100% Treas 2265-2270	8.177			100% Treas 2265-2270	8.177			100% Treas 2265-2270	8.177		
100% Treas 2270-2275	8.177			100% Treas 2270-2275	8.177			100% Treas 2270-2275	8.177			100% Treas 2270-2275	8.177		
100% Treas 2275-2280	8.177			100% Treas 2275-2280	8.177			100% Treas 2275-2280	8.177			100% Treas 2275-2280	8.177		
100% Treas 2280-2285	8.177			100% Treas 2280-2285	8.177			100% Treas 2280-2285	8.177			100% Treas 2280-2285	8.177		
100% Treas 2285-2290	8.177			100% Treas 2285-2290	8.177			100% Treas 2285-2290	8.177			100% Treas 2285-2290	8.177		
100% Treas 2290-2295	8.177			100% Treas 2290-2295	8.177			100% Treas 2290-2295	8.177			100% Treas 2290-2295	8.177		
100% Treas 2295-2300	8.177			100% Treas 2295-2300	8.177			100% Treas 2295-2300	8.177			100% Treas 2295-2300	8.177		
100% Treas 2300-2305	8.177			100% Treas 2300-2305	8.177			100% Treas 2300-2305	8.177			100% Treas 2300-2305	8.177		
100% Treas 2305-2310	8.177			100% Treas 2305-2310	8.177			100% Treas 2305-2310	8.177			100% Treas 2305-2310	8.177		
100% Treas 2310-2315	8.177			100% Treas 2310-2315	8.177			100% Treas 2310-2315	8.177			100% Treas 2310-2315	8.177		
100% Treas 2315-2320	8.177			100% Treas 2315-2320	8.177			100% Treas 2315-2320	8.177			100% Treas 2315-2320	8.177		
100% Treas 2320-2325	8.177			100% Treas 2320-2325	8.177			100% Treas 2320-2325	8.177			100% Treas 2320-2325	8.177		
100% Treas 2325-2330	8.177			100% Treas 2325-2330	8.177			100% Treas 2325-2330	8.177			100% Treas 2325-2330	8.177		
100% Treas 2330-2335	8.177			100% Treas 2330-2335	8.177			100% Treas 2330-2335	8.177			100% Treas 2330-2335	8.177		
100% Treas 2335-2340	8.177			100% Treas 2335-2340	8.177			100% Treas 2335-2340	8.177			100% Treas 2335-2340	8.177		
100% Treas 2340-2345	8.177			100% Treas 2340-2345	8.177			100% Treas 2340-2345	8.177			100% Treas 2340-2345	8.177		
100% Treas 2345-2350	8.177			100% Treas 2345-2350	8.177			100% Treas 2345-2350	8.177			100% Treas 2345-2350	8.177		
100% Treas 2350-2355	8.177			100% Treas 2350-2355	8.177			100% Treas 2350-2355	8.177			100% Treas 2350-2355	8.177		
100% Treas 2355-2360	8.177			100% Treas 2355-2360	8.177			100% Treas 2355-2360	8.177			100% Treas 2355-2360	8.177		
100% Treas 2360-2365	8.177			100% Treas											

